

Gorbachev offers to scrap Asia missiles

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Wednesday Moscow would agree to remove all its medium-range missiles from Europe and Asia if the United States withdrew its nuclear weapons from Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. Speaking at a dinner for visiting Vietnamese leader Nguyen Van Linh, Mr. Gorbachev said the Soviet Union had often expressed its readiness for a deal under which both superpowers would eliminate all their medium-range missiles. "There would be no obstacles to such a decision if the United States removed its nuclear means in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines and also withdrew its aircraft-carrying fleet beyond agreed limits," Mr. Gorbachev said. "Mr. Gorbachev was responding to a demand from NATO defence ministers last week that the Soviet Union remove all its SS-20 missiles from Europe and Asia as part of a superpower deal on medium-range missiles. The superpowers had reached tentative agreement at their summit in Reykjavik last October on a deal under which they would eliminate their medium-range forces in Europe but keep 100 warheads each elsewhere."

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King receives Sudanese cleric

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received Ahmad Al Mahdi, an Islamic religious leader from Sudan. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Hamzeh returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh returned home Tuesday after he chaired the 40th session of the World Health Organisation (WHO) meetings and visiting Poland for talks on bilateral cooperation. Dr. Hamzeh told Petra that the delegates to the conference praised Jordan for the achievements it has undertaken in the field of health services and child vaccination. He added that Jordan, together with some other Arab countries, outlined to the conference the deteriorating health services in the occupied Arab territories and urged the participants to exert pressures on the Israeli authorities to improve these conditions.

SLA man killed in clash

TEL AVIV (R) — A member of an Israeli-backed militia was killed early Tuesday in a clash in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, sources said. But they said it was unclear if the militant from the "South Lebanon Army" was killed by guerrillas or in a clash with a fellow fighter in the village of Amata just north of the Lebanon-Israel border.

Fiji premier freed from custody

SUVA (R) — Ousted Fiji Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra was freed early Tuesday after nearly six days in military custody and said the leaders of last Thursday's coup should be tried. "These people must be taken to court," Mr. Bavadra told a welcoming crowd of about 500 on the lawn of his suburban home. "The law must play its part." Earlier, coup leader Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka told his troops that he was ready to face a treason charge and prepared to die if necessary (See page 9).

Iran-Ethiopia arms deal reported

ABU DHABI (R) — Iran signed an agreement with Ethiopia last month to buy old stocks of U.S. arms, ammunition and military spare parts, the United Arab Emirates daily Al-Itihad reported Tuesday. Quoting diplomatic sources in London, it said the deal included fighter planes, tanks and guns, some of which were in working condition and others to be used for spare parts.

Vienna starts case against WJC chief

VIENNA (R) — The Austrian judiciary has started proceedings to make World Jewish Congress (WJC) President Edgar Bronfman answer charges of slander against President Kurt Waldheim, a Justice Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. Mr. Bronfman said in Budapest this month he was convinced the Austrian head of state was "part and parcel of the Nazi killing machine."

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U.S. ships ordered to shoot back if threatened in Gulf

Death toll put at 37 in attack on USS Stark

• Moscow urges Washington to scale down naval presence • Reagan underlines need to end war

Combined agency dispatches

AMERICAN warships in the Gulf were on Tuesday under orders to shoot back if threatened by attack as Moscow called for the United States to reduce its naval presence in the region after a deadly Iraqi-missile attack on U.S. warship late Sunday.

The death toll on the stricken frigate USS Stark rose to 37 and the Pentagon ordered an inquiry into why the ship did not defend itself against the attack.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger told a Senate committee "we do not know why" the guided missile frigate, built in 1982 and carrying an array of state-of-the-art electronic warfare systems, did not attempt to protect itself when an Iraqi plane struck in the Gulf.

"That will be one of the first orders of business of the inquiry," Mr. Weinberger said.

He announced a naval board would arrive in Bahrain on Wednesday to begin its probe. The crippled 3,585-ton Stark was towed into Bahrain Tuesday. After high-level meetings in Washington on Monday, U.S. President Ronald Reagan

intend will be fired upon, unless they provide adequate notification of their intentions."

Mr. Weinberger, testifying before a Senate subcommittee, said the ship was carrying a total of 222 officers and sailors when it was attacked.

Of the 37 dead, he said, 24 have been identified and their families notified. The remaining 13 have not been identified. A Pentagon spokesman said earlier that 15 sailors had been washed overboard or were still trapped in the wreckage.

Mr. Weinberger said an attack was not expected and called it "a single horrible error on the part of the Iraqi pilot."

At least one French-made Exocet plane-to-ship missile blasted the vessel on Sunday night, igniting flash fires in forward compartments.

The incident dominated U.S. newspapers, with many headline writers highlighting the ship being caught with its guard down on its assignment to keep Gulf shipping lanes open in the midst of the six-year-old war between Iraq and Iran.

Mr. Weinberger told the Senate committee at the start of a

(Continued on page 4)

Beirut bombers said to be PSP men

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian troops have arrested a Druze militia officer and eight aides in connection with a bombing spree, apparently aimed at undermining Syria's peacekeeping effort in west Beirut, a Syrian officer was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

However, three sticks of dynamite exploded in west Beirut overnight, bringing to at least 107 the number of "garbage bomb" attacks in the mainly Muslim western sector of the capital in nearly three months, police said.

The blasts came hours after Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, announced that the mastermind of the bomb attacks had been arrested.

Police told Reuters the latest explosions caused no casualties. As in earlier attacks, the dynamite was thrown from a speeding car into piles of rubbish on street corners.

The independent daily An-Nahar newspaper identified the suspected leader of bombers as Abu Sheib, whose real name is Imad Saab. It said Mr. Saab was a security officer in the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) of Druze leader Walid Jumblatt.

The newspaper quoted Brig. Kanaan as saying Mr. Saab and the eight other suspects were responsible for the "garbage" bombings across west Beirut since Feb. 22, when 7,500 Syrian soldiers defied in the city's western sector to end militia anarchy.

These bombings caused no casualties or major damage and Brig. Kanaan did not say if the group was behind three car bombings in which eight people were killed and 19 wounded in the same period.

However, a Lebanese security official said the "cell" was responsible for the small bombs. Brig. Kanaan charged that Mr. Saab was acting under direct instructions from Jamal Karara, the PSP's security chief who goes by the code name of Abu Hatim.

The PSP would not comment on the report.

Witness says North knew he would be 'fall guy'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A courier for fired White House aide Oliver North said Tuesday Lieutenant-Colonel North had told him before he was sacked that he expected to be "the fall guy" in the Iran-contra scandal.

Robert Owen, a self-described "foot soldier" in the Nicaraguan "contra" rebels' fight against the Sandinista government, said Col. North was addressed by the code names "blood-and-guts" and "steelhammer" in the covert operation to keep the rebels in cash and guns.

Col. North, then a National Security Council (NSC) aide, was fired last Nov. 25 when it was disclosed that some proceeds from the sales of U.S. arms to Iran had been diverted to the contras via Swiss bank accounts at a time when U.S. military aid to the rebels was banned by Congress.

Mr. Owen, testifying before a joint House of Representatives and Senate committee, said Tuesday that he had visited Col. North in his old executive office building office, next door to the White House, last Nov. 24.

"He told me he was going to resign. He said he was going to be the fall guy," Mr. Owen said.

Thatcher and Kinnock kick off campaign

LONDON (AP) — With fresh polls showing her lead narrowing, Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher published her re-election campaign platform on Tuesday, promising a tax cut, more "popular capitalism" and new curbs on union power.

A few blocks away and an hour earlier, Neil Kinnock of the Labour Party unveiled the platform he hopes will put him in No. 10 Downing Street after the June 11 election, stressing a programme to create one million jobs, remove U.S. cruise missiles and improve social benefits.

The two major parties released their strikingly contrasting platforms as the day's opinion polls showed Labour cutting two or three points off the 10-point deficit it had in the average of five previous soundings.

Mrs. Thatcher, 61, told a packed news conference her eight-year-old government was offering "power to the people."

Mrs. Thatcher, flanked by 10

Tuesday's hearing began with a declaration from house attorney John Nields that retired air force Major General Richard V. Secord had not yet informed the committee whether he would sign a waiver giving investigators access to all foreign bank records in which he has an interest. Mr. Nields also said Gen. Secord had not produced any of the \$8 million left from the secret arms supply effort.

In other testimony, Mr. Owen said: — In 1985, Col. North sent him to Costa Rica to investigate the possibility of constructing an airstrip as part of the secret resupply effort. Mr. Owen testified that a CIA agent, whom he did not name, took him to see a Costa Rican officer and then accompanied him to the site where the airstrip was planned.

He made a trip to New York during a bank holiday, and was told to go to a corner Chinese market, where he identified himself by a code word. The man he met rolled up his pant leg and pulled out a wad of \$100 bills, Mr. Owen said. He counted them and found \$9,500, which he brought back to Gen. Secord in Washington.

King Fahd described recent talks between the leaders of Algeria and Morocco, promoted by the Saudi monarch in a bid for Arab solidarity, as "a great Arab achievement." They were held in an atmosphere of respect and cordiality, he said.

King Fahd indirectly portrayed the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as an example of Arab unity.

"The GCC has achieved Arab unity in six years at a time when the Arab League failed to achieve similar solidarity in 50 years,"

prime minister said. She vowed to introduce legislation to protect workers from union discipline if they refuse to join a strike, to expand private home ownership and to reintroduce anti-crime legislation that parliament was unable to act on before she called an early election.

Mr. Kinnock and his deputy, Roy Hattersley, introduced their platform at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London.

Labour reiterated a pledge to cut the three million unemployed, 10.9 per cent of the labour force, by one million within two years. It said its social and welfare programme would cost £6 billion pounds (\$10 billion).

It stuck to its controversial pledge to scrap Britain's nuclear weapons and send back U.S. cruise missiles, but Mr. Kinnock said a Labour administration would not take action while the superpowers were negotiating arms reductions.



King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz

Fahd says Gulf war seems to be nearing end

KUWAIT (R) — King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, in remarks published Tuesday, said the Iran-Iraq war seemed to be drawing to an end.

"Its (the war's) end seems to be approaching, but it is going through a fluctuating state," King Fahd told the Kuwait daily Al-Sayassah. The newspaper did not indicate when the interview was given.

The Saudi monarch gave no hint of whether he expected the conflict, now well into its seventh year, to be decided on the war-front or brought to an end by diplomatic means.

Asked if Saudi contacts with Iran had achieved success he said: "Our contacts with them are like contacts between states. But we always remind them of the benefits of ending this war which has no reason to continue."

King Fahd, in answer to a question, said a meeting between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, longstanding political foes, would strengthen Arab unity.

"Needless to say, such a meeting would strengthen the influence of the Arab Nation and help it achieve more unity," he said.

The Kuwait news agency KUNA, quoting Arab diplomatic sources, reported Monday that the Iraqi and Syrian leaders would hold a summit soon, which it said was "expected to end almost a decade of bitter political rivalry."

No date or venue was given by KUNA, but it said officials from the two countries were expected to meet shortly to set the stage for the summit.

A Kuwaiti daily reported early this month that the two leaders held secret talks in Jordan, preceded by a joint meeting with King Hussein and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah. Neither Baghdad nor Damascus denied the report.

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"The GCC has achieved Arab unity in six years at a time when the Arab League failed to achieve similar solidarity in 50 years,"

Egypt calls for more positive U.S. stand on Mideast peace conference

CAIRO (R) — Egypt wants a more positive U.S. stand on an international peace conference to break the "vicious circle" in the Middle East, a top official says.

President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser, Osama Al Baz, also says Egypt still sees a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) role in such a conference despite recent setbacks in relations between them.

In a rare, wide-ranging briefing for Western reporters Monday night, Dr. Baz said Middle East peace prospects were still alive.

"... These (prospects) would be enhanced if the United States takes a more definite position on the desirability of holding a peace conference because many parties are watching the U.S. position," Dr. Baz said.

"The United States should emphasise the positive aspects related to the peace conference," he added.

"The history of the Middle East is a chain of missed opportunities. The Israelis have passed up a lot of opportunities as well ... we have to break this vicious circle," Dr. Baz said, citing Egypt's 1979 treaty with Israel as a first effort to do so.

Echoing a recent remark by President Mubarak, he urged the PLO not to "miss the last wagon of the last train" to Middle East peace and to reach an agreement with Jordan on joint negotiations.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) scrapped the Feb. 11, 1985 accord with Jordan and attacked Egypt's pact with Israel — prompting Mr. Mubarak to close

PLO offices in Egypt. Dr. Baz said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had succumbed to Syrian and Algerian pressure on this issue.

"It is regrettable that the PLO had to pay such a heavy price in return for nominal unity in its ranks," he said.

Dr. Baz urged the PLO to come to terms with Jordan and said the PNC resolutions cast doubt on its credibility as a party to the peace process.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres contended in New York last week that Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Syria wanted the PLO kept out of an international conference.

Asked if Egypt was ready to

(Continued on page 3)

Peres: Moscow should outline its position

Labour leader acknowledges differences with U.S. over future of Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday asked the Soviet Union to define its position on a proposed international peace conference and outline exactly what role it expects to play in such a forum.

Mr. Peres also said the United States and Israel have conflicting views about the future of Jerusalem, one of the issues likely to be discussed at such a conference.

He spoke to reporters after returning from a four-day visit to the United States where he sought Reagan administration support for his peace plan. He met twice with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr. Shultz said the United States would only participate in the conference if the full Israeli government backs it. Prime

Minister Shimon Peres

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U.S. professor denies Israeli charge of organising protest

RAMALLAH (AP) — An American professor, on trial before an Israeli military court, denied Tuesday that he organised an anti-Israeli protest and said he only witnessed it from a shop where he was buying juice for his 18-month-old son.

The military judge recessed the trial for 10 days Tuesday, granting the prosecution a request for more time to find witnesses.

Roger Heacock, a history professor from Philadelphia who is now teaching European history at Birzeit University, is charged with organising and leading a women's march in Ramallah on Feb. 16 and of inciting shopkeepers in the town to close their stores in a subsequent protest demonstration.

The 44-year-old professor, who has taught at Birzeit for two years, faces deportation or one year in jail if convicted.

"The charges are grotesque, as I think has become very apparent," Prof. Heacock told AP in an interview outside the military headquarters where the trial is being held.

"I just happened to be there after a woman's march had been broken up. I was grabbed by the windpipe by a soldier and brutalised. Then I was accused of having organised and led (the march). It's absurd."

Prof. Heacock was jailed for three days, then released Feb. 19 on a \$4,200 bond.

Prof. Heacock has maintained the arrest was due to his outspoken criticism of Israeli soldiers in their fatal shooting of two unarmed students and the wounding of 10 others during a protest last December.

Both the official election commission, Comelec, and the independent poll watchdog group Namrel have denied all suggestions of orchestrated fraud while acknowledging isolated cheating.

The court ordered election officials to answer charges by the right-wing Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) that the administration's landslide win was the result of vote manipulation on a grand scale.

The court stepped into the poll row as GAD leader, former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, edged close to winning one of the 24 seats in the new senate.

Prof. Heacock's lawyer, Raja Shehadeh, protested chief military judge Danny Gwata's decision to permit the prosecution to call more witnesses after the defence had rested its case, saying it was "unusual and irregular."

"It is not something to be used just because the prosecution decides its case is weak," Mr. Shehadeh said.

Since the trial opened March 25, prosecutor Ariel Rotsher has produced three witnesses, including a police officer and the two soldiers who arrested Prof. Heacock. They testified Prof. Heacock was present and made a gesture of incitement to the demonstrators.

On Tuesday, five defence witnesses testified, including Ann Sandin, a Nebraska school teacher who witnessed the incident. She told the court Prof. Heacock did not take part in the protest but said Prof. Heacock signalled to her that he had been arrested.

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Supreme Court orders probe into Philippine polls

MANILA (R) — The supreme court said Tuesday it would investigate the conduct of last week's Philippines elections, said by beaten opposition candidates to be riddled with fraud and cheating.

The court ordered election officials to answer charges by the right-wing Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) that the administration's landslide win was the result of vote manipulation on a grand scale.

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Hawke orders closure of Libyan mission

CANBERRA (R) — Australia ordered Tuesday the immediate closure of the Libyan People's Bureau and gave all Libyan diplomats 10 days to leave the country.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke told a news conference the government had taken the decision after careful consideration of what he described as the "destabilising role" of Libya in the South Pacific.

The move was not directly connected with the current civil unrest in Fiji following a military takeover last week, he said.

But he said there was a "broad conceptual inter-relationship between the issues involved."

Mr. Hawke also cited recent paramilitary training provided by Libya to dissident groups in the French territory of New Caledonia and the Indonesian provinces of Irian Jaya and East Timor.

He also accused Libya of being involved in divisive activities in Australia but did not give any details.

Officials said it was a reference to Libya's recent support for radical groups within the aboriginal community.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Libyan mission, which had only two diplomats, had been established in Canberra for several years. The present secretary, Shaban Gashut, arrived in November, 1984.

Australia has no mission in Tripoli but its embassy in Rome deals with Libya on diplomatic matters.

Mr. Hawke, who has been severely critical of what he termed Libya's "attempts to gain a foothold in the South Pacific," said last month there was no evidence that Libya mission in Canberra was involved in subversive activities.

Libya established formal ties with the South Pacific island state

of Vanuatu last year but has yet to open a mission in Port Vila, the capital.

About a dozen members of Vanuatu's ruling Vanuatu Party visited Libya in the past few months, some undergoing anti-terrorist training.

Western diplomats said a handful of dissidents from New Caledonia and Irian Jaya and a group of trade unionists from the Solomon Islands had also visited Tripoli.

Earlier this month, Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden and New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange held a hastily arranged conference to discuss the Libyan issue.

Mr. Hawke said his government had voiced concern before about Libyan activities in the region.

"Some of these activities have been conducted openly, others, many others, with varying degrees of clandestinity. They have become more intense in the course of this year," he said.

"There is no plausible explanation in terms of geography or legitimate national interest for Libyan activity in this region, as the foreign minister and I have both noted in parliament and elsewhere," he said.

Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi had urged Pacific islanders "to join a single front to stage a revolution," Mr. Hawke said.

"Libya's record of subversion and terrorism elsewhere in the world justifies the gravest concern," he added.

Last month, aboriginal activist Michael Mansell created a furor

in Australia when he called on those attending a revolutionary conference in Libya to help aborigines fight for their rights.

Mansell said on his return that Col. Qadhafi would establish a separate aboriginal nation in Australia if the government continued to ignore aborigines.

In Wellington, Mr. Lange said his government did not intend to cut Libya's links with New Zealand.

Diplomats at the Canberra bureau are accredited to Wellington where there is no permanent Libyan mission.

Mr. Lange said in a statement Mr. Hawke had advised him of Australia's decision.

"It is not the current intention of the New Zealand government to terminate the existing accreditation of the Libyan People's Bureau to New Zealand," he said.

"No application or request for a bureau to be established in New Zealand has been received," Mr. Lange said.

New Zealand has distanced itself from Australian concern about relations between Libya and Vanuatu and Mr. Lange said on May 11 that Tripoli had a legitimate interest in the region.

He said New Caledonia, where indigenous Melanesian Kanaks seek independence from France, had the greatest potential for regional destabilisation.

"Libya has a legitimate interest in the region," Mr. Lange added, noting that Tripoli had a mission in Kuala Lumpur as well as Canberra.

Mr. Lange was asked then if Australia understood the region as well as New Zealand.

"I think that there are difficulties sometimes (in Australia). The larger the power, the harder it is — and that's the truth of it," he said.

Beirut building collapses; 5 killed

BEIRUT (R) — A block of flats collapsed in mainly Muslim west Beirut Tuesday, killing five people and leaving six others still unaccounted for, police said.

They said a pregnant woman was one of the victims dragged from the rubble by scores of rescue teams working feverishly to find survivors.

The Shaaban Building collapsed at dawn in what residents said was a roll of thunder and a huge cloud of choking dust.

Initially, police attributed the incident to structural damage during Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Civil defence officials later told Reuters that activity at a nearby building site had undermined the four-storey Shaaban.

Ambulances sped to the Abu Shaker suburb while Syrian and Lebanese troops cordoned off the area to prevent crowds from hampering rescue operations.

Most Shaaban residents were asleep when their homes fell apart, witnesses said.

One woman, sobbing with grief, carried the picture of her niece, still missing hours after the building collapsed.

"Dear God," she cried. "This is my niece, my only relative left on this earth."

Men shouted "Allah-O-Akbar" (God is Great) as rescuers pulled bodies, many of them still clad in pyjamas or nightgowns, from the pile of wreckage. One 18-year-old youth was found alive under the broken masonry and rushed to hospital.

"This is like an air raid or car bomb," said one elderly onlooker. "But we're not used to have our homes collapse over our heads for no apparent reason."

Beirut, with a population of nearly two million people, has been repeatedly hit by street battles and air raids over the past 12 years of civil war.

Algerian premier arrives in Jeddah

JEDDAH (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Brahimi arrived in Saudi Arabia for talks expected to focus on the Western Sahara conflict, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

The agency said he arrived at the Red Sea port of Jeddah Monday night but gave no further details.

Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd presided over a meeting of Moroccan and Algerian leaders, at odds over the conflict, in a move to pave the way for a peaceful settlement.

Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas are fighting Morocco for independence in the former Spanish colony.

U.S. sailors 'had no warning' of Gulf attack

WIESBADEN, West Germany — Sam Zakheim said Monday night the crew of the USS Stark had no warning of the attack and "did not know what hit them."

Mr. Zakheim relayed the first account from survivors of the stricken frigate after he saw them in hospital, saying:

"All hell broke loose when the ship was hit. They (the sailors) just fell through a hole into the water."

They did not know what hit them. They were on deck, then came a huge bang — then they fell through a huge hole," he told a news conference here.

Asked if he meant the men were not aware of the attack, he answered: "Yes sir, they heard no planes, no warning."

The ambassador said two badly wounded had been flown to West Germany and a further four less seriously hurt were recovering at a Bahrain military hospital.

About two dozen other crew members suffered minor injuries in the attack, he added.

All the men he spoke to were concerned about their families.

Mr. Zakheim would not give full names of the injured but said two of them, named Mark and James, asked him to "call my mum."

The Stark on Monday night was still close to the point at which it was hit about 85 miles north east of Bahrain, with some of the crew still on board, the ambassador said.

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Lebanese-born Zakheim was posted to Bahrain seven months ago. He told the newsmen he was aboard a U.S. navy ship in Bahrain port when the attack on the Stark took place.

He said two missiles struck home, one leaving a gash 10 to 15 feet (three to five metres) wide and a second one striking below the bridge.

He asked reporters "to pray with us that the fire does not reflash" and that the ship docks safely in Bahrain.

Meanwhile at Mayport Naval Station, Florida, navy officers began the somber task Monday of notifying the families of the 37 sailors killed on the Stark.

The military did not publicly disclose the names of the sailors killed or the wounded in the attack.

"Everybody is hurting," navy chaplain Bill Perry said at the Stark's home base outside Jacksonville. "There's a lot of pain, a lot of sadness and a lot of head-shaking. ... If you wear the uniform you feel the pain."

Base Commander Capt. John Mitchell declined to say how many, if any, of the 85 Stark sailors who make their home in the Jacksonville area were killed in Sunday's attack. The Stark carried 200 crewmen.

"Until they (the families) hear something, everyone is a casualty," he said.

One of the two gave birth Monday to a healthy girl in Jacksonville, said Mrs. Ferguson, and the Red Cross sent a message with the news to the ship. Another crewman's wife was getting ready to deliver, she added.

Mayport is home to 35 ships, including the aircraft carriers USS Forrestal and USS Saratoga, which participated in the April 1986 bombing of Libya. The naval station also has an airbase, home for four helicopter squadrons manned by 40 crew members.

About 18,000 naval personnel work on the palm tree-lined base, which with Jacksonville Naval Air Station and Cecil Field Naval Air Station employ a total of 39,000 people.

tv." Capt. Mitchell told reporters. He said a team of 10 doctors, psychologists and other professionals arrived Monday to help families deal with the crisis.

Perry, who visited the families of several Stark crewmen after Sunday's attack and talked to sailors at the base, said the time before families were told the names of the dead and injured was the most difficult part.

That time was especially hard for two wives of crew members, who did not know their husbands' fate on the Stark, said Su Ferguson, director of service to military families and veterans at the Jacksonville Red Cross.

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U.S. to press case of 10 charged in arms plot

NEW YORK (AP) — Government prosecutors have said they would not drop their year-old case against 10 men charged in a \$2.2-billion Iran arms smuggling scheme.

Earlier, prosecutors had asked for delays after it was disclosed that President Ronald Reagan's administration authorised arms sales to Iran. Washington investigators probed whether some of the money had been diverted to the contra rebels fighting Nicaragua's government.

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Lorna Schofield told U.S. district Judge Leonard B. Sand on Monday that the government did not need more time, although "various investigations are continuing" into the Iran-contra affair "and facts are emerging daily."

Arabs, Jews praise U.S. court ruling on civil rights

NEW YORK (AP) — Jewish and Arab groups were united in hailing a U.S. supreme court ruling which extended broad civil-rights protections to the two ethnic groups.

The unanimous ruling, issued Monday in two cases, held that U.S. civil-rights laws originally aimed at preventing and redressing discrimination against blacks were just as applicable to other groups victimised by discrimination.

The decision itself was seen as an extension of civil-rights protection from a supreme court usually divided on such matters in recent years.

But nearly as important, the ruling was seen as the fruit of an extremely rare collaboration among Arab, Israeli and black civil-rights groups who put aside differences and filed briefs in support of each others' cases. "We're extremely pleased," said Albert Mokhiber, director of legal services for the American

Arab Anti-discrimination Committee. "With the rise in hatred and violence that has victimised both Arabs and Jews, we desperately need this kind of protection."

Sam Rabinov, legal director of the American Jewish Committee, said his organisation was "overjoyed" with the ruling.

He said there had been little difficulty in Arab and Jewish groups joining together in support of the two cases.

Several attorneys predicted the decision would prompt many other civil-rights suits by members of ethnic groups not accustomed to considering themselves eligible for such relief.

"The key element is that it sends a message, that perpetrators of vandalism or discriminatory conduct will feel an impact where it hurts the most: In the pocketbook," said Jeffrey Sienensky, legal director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Algerian premier arrives in Jeddah

JEDDAH (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Brahimi arrived in Saudi Arabia for talks expected to focus on the Western Sahara conflict, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

The agency said he arrived at the Red Sea port of Jeddah Monday night but gave no further details.

Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd presided over a meeting of Moroccan and Algerian leaders, at odds over the conflict, in a move to pave the way for a peaceful settlement.

Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas are fighting Morocco for independence in the former Spanish colony.

Peres urges equal tuition for Arab, Jewish students

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called Tuesday for the reversal of a cabinet decision to charge Israeli Arabs and other citizens who did not serve in the army higher university tuition fees than former soldiers.

Seppaling on his return from a four-day visit to the United States, Peres told reporters: "Israel has always avoided discrimination between Arabs and Jews in as far as taxes and payments are concerned. It is an unfortunate and unnecessary decision that should be corrected."

The decision — backed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Bloc and opposed by Peres's Labour Party — imposed new strains on their shaky coalition government already divided over an international Middle East peace conference.

Arabs, who make up about 3,500 of the 60,000 students at government universities, boycotted classes in protest Monday. Hundreds of Jewish and Arab

students demonstrated against the cabinet decision.

The presidents of Hebrew University and Haifa University said they would refuse to charge Arab students higher tuition.

"This is a moral decision. We will not have discrimination in our university. Everyone will pay the same fee," Hebrew University President Amnon Pazy was quoted as saying by the Jerusalem Post.

The daily also quoted Haifa University President Ephraim Evron as saying the decision was invalid and set a dangerous precedent.

National Student Union leader David Berman said he would challenge the cabinet decision in the supreme court.

Students are now paying \$1,400 in tuition but a third of it is a special tax due to end this year.

The universities sought new fees of \$2,300 to help overcome a financial crisis but striking students earlier this year demanded tuition be set at \$800.

Fadlallah searching for Waite

BEIRUT (R) — A pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim cleric has said he was still trying to secure the release of British church envoy Terry Waite, who went missing in Beirut four months ago during a mission to free U.S. hostages.

Sayed Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, influential with Lebanon's radical pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), told Reuters he had tried unsuccessfully to

unravel the mystery surrounding Mr. Waite's disappearance.

"So far I have not managed to move forward a single step ... but I am still pursuing the issue," Fadlallah said.

He blamed Washington for lack of progress towards freeing the 28 foreigners believed to be hostages in Lebanon, saying their fate had been "locked into an American deep freeze."

Congress wants administration to heed war power resolution

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressmen concerned over the Gulf missile attack have said they want to ensure the administration abides by the war powers resolution, which gives Congress a say in placing U.S. servicemen in war zones.

The resolution, approved over the veto of President Richard Nixon in 1973 in response to the undeclared and divisive Vietnam war, gives Congress a greater role when U.S. troops are put in hostile situations.

Among the many provisions is one that could force troops to be withdrawn from hostile areas unless Congress approves continued involvement.

"One may argue that it (the Gulf attack) might be covered by the war powers terms, technically," the speaker of the House of Representatives, Jim Wright told reporters, referring to the Iraqi missile attack on the guided-missile frigate USS Stark off Bahrain.

"I think the United States must discover what happened and who did it and get satisfactory assurances from that party," the Democrat also said Monday.

The House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East said it would hold hearings into the attack on the Stark.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Claiborne Pell, a Rhode Island Democrat, said, "this demonstrates the absolute urgency of bringing about an end to this conflict (Iran-Iraq war)."

"It also shows that we must proceed very carefully with regard to putting our ships and their crews in further jeopardy," Sen. Pell said.

He said his committee was working with the administration to get the facts of the case.

He said he wanted to know how the requirements of the war powers resolution will be fulfilled.

"As a first step, it is up to the administration to inform the committee as to this involvement of U.S. forces," Sen. Pell said.

The Senate Armed Services Committee will also conduct a full review of the incident, Senator Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat and member of the committee said.

Sen. Levin said he has urged the State Department to seek reparations for the loss of American lives although "nothing could compensate the families of those killed aboard the Stark for their tragic loss."

Congressman Charles Bennett, a Florida Democrat and senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, said "it could be you know that it isn't anybody's fault. People die in the armed services because they sacrifice for their country."

Republican Congressman Helen Bentley of Maryland, said, "I join with President Reagan also in thanking the countries of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain for their swift response to assist our crippled vessel and wounded crew members, probably reducing the loss of additional lives."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	23:00	News Summary
14:00	23:45	Evening Show Continued
14:10	23:57	News Headlines
14:15	24:00	Close Down
PROGRAMME ONE	BBC WORLD SERVICE	630, 720, 1523 KHz
14:00	07:00	Newsday
14:10	07:30	International Soccer Special 07:30 Soccer conti.
14:15	07:45	Reflections 07:45 Financial News
14:30	08:00	World News 08:00 24 Hour
14:35	08:15	News Summary 08:15 Report on Religion
14:40	08:30	The World Today 08:30
14:45	08:45	Newsday 08:45 Meridian 10:00 World
14:50	09:00	News 10:00 24 Hours
14:55	09:15	World News 10:15 World News 11:00
15:00	09:30	Reflections 10:15 International Soccer
15:05	09:45	Special 11:30 Brain of Britain 1987
15:10	10:00	World News 12:00 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30
15:15	10:15	Financial News 12:45 The Classic Album 12:45
15:20	10:30	On the Road with William Shakespeare 13:30 My Word 14:00
15:25	10:45	World News 14:00 News About Britain
15:30	10:55	Reflections 14:15 International Soccer
15:35	11:05	14:25 A Letter from Wales 14:30 Meridian 15:00 World News 15:15
15:40	11:15	Meridian 15:15 The Farming World 15:45 Sports Round-up
15:45	11:20	16:00 World News 16:00 24 Hour
15:50	11:25	News Summary 16:30 Development
15:55	11:30	17:00 News Summary: Outlook
16:00	11:35	17:45 Report on Religion 18:00 Radio
16:05	11:40	Newsday 18:15 Vision of Humanity
16:10	11:45	18:30 Vintage Comedy 19:00 World
16:15	11:50	News 19:00 Contemporary 19:15 The
16:20	11:55	Picures of Seeking 19:45 The World
16:25	12:00	Today 20:00 World News 20:00 A
16:30	12:05	Letter from Wales 20:15 Working
16:35	12:10	Wildlife 20:40 Book Choice 20:50
16:40	12:15	Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsday
16:45	12:20	16:00 News Summary: Rock Solid
16:50	12:25	00:15 Counterpoint 00:45 Soccer
16:55	12:30	(cont.) 02:15 Write on...
RADIO JORDAN	VOICE OF AMERICA	MTW 1260 & SW 720, 955, 1174, 11925 and 15210 KHz
07:00	06:00	News 06:10 Newsday 06:30 VOA
07:30	06:30	Morning Show 06:30 News 06:30
08:00	07:00	VOA Morning 07:30 News 07:30
08:30	07:30	VOA Morning 07:30 News 07:30
09:00	08:00	Newsday 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00
09:30	08:30	News 09:30 Newsday 09:30 VOA
10:00	09:00	Morning 10:00 News 10:00 Newsday
10:30	09:30	10:30 News Summary 10:30 News
11:00	10:00	Focus 10:30 Special English News &
11:30	10:30	Features 10:30 News 10:30 Newsday
12:00	11:00	20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News
12:30	11:30	21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English
13:00	12:00	News & Features 22:00 News 22:10
13:30	12:30	Newsday America 22:30 Music USA
14:00	13:00	Jazz 23:00 News & Editorial 23:15
14:30	13:30	Music USA Jazz 24:00 News 06:10
15:00	14:00	World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

LONG ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITION

An exhibition of Arabic calligraphy at the University of Jordan (until May 20).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267	
American Centre ..	644371
British Council ..	641220
French Cultural Centre ..	630178
Goethe Institute ..	641993
Soviet Cultural Centre ..	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre ..	620409
Turkish Cultural Centre ..	639777
Haya Arts Centre ..	665195
Unesco Youth City ..	667151-6
N.W.C.A. ..	641793
N.W.M.A. ..	664521
Amman Municipal Library ..	637111
Univ. of Jordan Library ..	843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum": Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Madaba Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. free-round. Tel. 651760

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Islamic Art Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by Arab Century orientalist artists. Mount-Liban. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30120.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic). Jabal Lweibdeh. Tel. 657440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Terrassas Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Lweibdeh, most in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:20 p.m. Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox). Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Anglica Church (Church of the Redeemer). Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 717331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 717261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 717171.

Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 675734.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 812295.

Dajani approves statutes of business association

Interior Rajai Dajani Tuesday announced his approval of by-laws and statutes of the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA).

The JBA has been established with the purpose of creating a suitable climate for the private sector to enable it to play its pioneering role in stimulating the national economy, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The JBA was established in 1985 and at present has a membership of more than 50 leading businessmen in the country, according to Mr. Abu Hassan, chairman of the JBA.

He said that the presidents of the chambers of commerce and industry are both JBA members and the statute approved by the minister was in fact an amended version of statutes that have existed since 1985.

The JBA is working to help promote economic and social institutions in the country and assist companies and individuals in promoting the private sector's activities, according to Petra.

The statute authorizes the JBA to form a joint council with similar bodies in Arab and foreign countries with the purpose of promoting trade and investment relations among various countries through businessmen and their associations, the news agency said.

Every businessman in Jordan has the right to apply for the JBA membership provided he is above 30 years of age and enjoys qualifications and good reputation that make him eligible for such membership.

Mr. Abu Hassan on Tuesday held meetings with the presidents of Amman chambers of commerce and industry to review scopes of cooperation between them and the JBA.

Khayyat in Morocco for seminars on religion

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Tuesday left for Casablanca to take part in a series of seminars and lectures being held during the holy month of Ramadan.

The seminars and lectures are being held in the city of Casablanca under the patronage of King Hassan II of Morocco and are being attended by senior Islamic ulemas and leaders.

Dr. Khayyat is expected to deliver a lecture and meet with religious leaders from Morocco to discuss means of bolstering Jordanian-Moroccan cooperation in religious affairs.

7th children's conference gets under way July 2

AMMAN (Petra) — The Seventh Arab Children's Conference is to open in Jordan on July 2, 1987 with delegations from various Arab countries taking part in the events and activities, according to an announcement made Tuesday by the N.H.F. which organizes the annual event.

This year's event will be the seventh in a row, and the N.H.F. has extended invitations to Arab states, to send four children, between the ages of 10 and 13, to take part in the activities which were initiated by Her Majesty Queen Noor in 1979, according to a N.H.F. spokesman.

The preparatory committee has set up a working team and two subcommittees to supervise the children's activities during the conference.

The idea of the children's conference, Mrs. Mufti said, emerged in the wake of an Arab summit meeting held in Amman in 1980. The conference is aimed at providing children with the opportunity of meeting and familiarising themselves with the culture of their Arab Nation, Mrs. Mufti said.

Mrs. Mufti noted that 350 children have so far taken part in the annual children's conferences held in the Kingdom over the past seven years.

This year's events include a meeting between the Queen and the children, and also a tour by the children of different archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

Egypt urges positive U.S. stand

(Continued from page 1)

"abandon" to PLO, Dr. Baz said: "Egypt cannot act alone. If the PLO does not reach agreement with Jordan on a new formula then they will be missing the last wagon on the last train."

Dr. Baz added: "If the PLO does not get its act together with Jordan, we have to sit down and wait what options remain available. We are not going to sit down and watch the peace process come down and be demolished."

Dr. Baz said a Tunis statement on Monday in which the PLO Executive Committee announced plans to redefine relations with Cairo was a first step to redressing the balance, he said, "this is not adequate yet."

Peres: Moscow should define position

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Yitzhak Shamir is bitterly opposed to such a forum.

The superpowers would be invited to the conference which is to serve as an umbrella for direct negotiations. "Under an U.S.-mediated plan, the conference would not have the authority to impose decisions on the participants," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres met in Washington on Monday with Yuri Dubynin, the Soviet ambassador to the United States, to discuss the peace plan.

"He (Dubynin) repeated... that the Soviet Union is not supporting an international conference that will have the power to impose decisions," Mr. Peres said Tuesday.

"On the other hand, I told the ambassador... it is time for the Soviet Union to be much more specific than it is about its view about this conference," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres said Mr. Dubynin told him the lack of relations between the two countries was not normal. The Soviet Union severed diplomatic relations after the 1967 Middle East war.

"He said the relations will be renewed with the development of this (peace) momentum but he was not specific about it," Mr. Peres said.

Addressing another issue involving his peace initiative, Mr. Peres said Israel and the United States "clearly have two different views" on the future of Jeru-



Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan (third from left) confers Tuesday with General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Chairman Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib (fourth from the left) and Sheikh Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi, the country's mufti (second from left), about a joint project to build a home for the elderly and senile (Petra photo)

Ministry, GUVS cooperate on construction of old age home

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour and Social Development will shortly announce the allotment of a piece of land on which a village is to be built to house the elderly and the senile people of Jordan, in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced Tuesday.

He made the announcement at a meeting of leaders of voluntary societies in the Amman Governorate which was attended also by GUVS Chairman Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib and Mr. Fakhri Bilbeisi, his deputy, and Sheikh Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi, the country's mufti.

Mr. Haj Hassan said that his ministry will examine the prospect of updating legislation pertaining to voluntary work in the Kingdom. He said his ministry and GUVS maintain very close cooperation in all matters connected with voluntary and charitable work in the country.

The government is determined, Mr. Haj Hassan said, to provide GUVS with all possible assistance to enable it to shoulder its task. He said the government plans to study the prospect of exempting from customs duty machinery and equipment im-

Charities in occupied territories

The ministry is keen on extending help and support to charitable and voluntary societies in the occupied Arab territories because of their humanitarian services. The minister noted that these societies act as a substitute for a national government in the occupied territories in terms of organising health, educational, social, and charitable services for the Arab population under Israeli rule.

He said that the government's drive to help these societies also reflects Jordan's determination to bolster the steadfastness of the Arab people in the face of Israel's repressive measures against the Arab population.

Voluntary work, the minister said, can serve as a basis for social development anywhere in the country.

New phase of GUVS development

Dr. Khatib made a speech at the meeting in which he said that GUVS has embarked on a new phase in its development by allocating sums of money for investment in different projects to generate income that would finance GUVS projects on the two banks of Jordan.

Musicians blend Orient, Occident in evening of 'breathtaking' music

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, a concert, organized by the French Cultural Centre in Amman in cooperation with Lufthansa Airline and the Jerusalem International Hotel, will introduce two fine musicians: Egyptian Hussein Al Masry and French Yves Gruson.

The two musicians will perform this evening at 9.00 p.m. at the Amman (International) Baccalaureate School in Sweileh.

In an exceptionally beautiful blend of Arab and European inheritance, Mr. Al Masry, on oud and Mr. Gruson, on luth, will play solo pieces from traditional Arab music, from the Renaissance as well as contemporary compositions, in addition to duets based on popular themes.

Uniting two instruments which have the same origin but followed different evolution paths (the oud came first, chronologically), the musicians combine the soft and extremely malleable sound of the oud with the crystal clear and subtle one of the luth. The result is a most pleasant and enjoyable experience, surely unique.

Hussein Al Masry is a composer and a performer. He lives in Paris, France where he finds the opportunity to express his oriental ideas, with their obvious roots in Egypt, and at the same time is



Egyptian Hussein Al Masry (left) and French Yves Gruson (right) team up for a beautiful blend of Arab and European music at a concert this evening at Amman Baccalaureate School.

able to assimilate, then develop new musical structures. His presence in France gives him the advantage of perceiving Egyptian music from a different angle and of capturing the spirit of European music. He has already given an impressive number of concerts and participated in radio programmes.

Yves Gruson began originally as a guitarist but is now dedicated to the luth. He has appeared as a soloist with prestigious musical ensembles. He performed with

Minister tours post offices, reviews fast mail services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Communications Muhieddine Al Hussein Tuesday made an inspection tour of post offices in Amman and was briefed on the telegraphic and telephone services for the public.

Later, the minister held a meeting with senior officials and urged them to improve the process of mail delivery and asked to be informed of the actual needs of post offices to facilitate their work.

During the tour, the minister reviewed the work of the fast mail delivery system which was initiated in July last year and which now links Jordan with 19 Arab and foreign countries. He was also briefed on arrangements to include Turkey and Switzerland

in the fast delivery service.

The minister was accompanied on the tour by Under Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif.

Jordanian delegation returns from postal union meeting

Jordan took part in a meeting by the Executive Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) which opened in Switzerland on April 26 and lasted 20 days.

The director of the Postal Affairs Department at the Ministry of Communications, Mr. Hashem Al Qudah, attended the meeting which discussed subjects related to postal services worldwide in addition to fast mail delivery.

Omani official ends talks on economic issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Oman Ministry of Industry and Trade Ahmad Abdul Nabi left for home Tuesday at the end of his visit to Jordan, during which he held talks on trade and economic cooperation between Jordan and Oman.

Mr. Abdul Nabi held talks with senior officials at the ministries of finance and trade and industry, focusing mainly on the flow of trade between the two countries.

In a pre-departure statement, the Omani official paid tribute to the strong ties existing between Jordan and Oman. He said that his talks dealt among other things with Jordanian help in organising an Omani financial market and securities market.

EC to allot JD 38m to Jordan in grants and loans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) is offering financial assistance and soft loans to eight countries in the Mediterranean region including Jordan, which will receive 100 million European currency units (ECUs). This amounts to JD 38 million, or \$111 million.

A statement issued by the delegation of the Commission of the European Community in Amman said that the grants and the loans will total 1.618 million ECUs (\$1.8 billion) for the whole group of countries in the region.

Of these, the statement said 615 ECUs will be in the form of grants and the rest as loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB).

Of the sum to be given to Jordan, under the third financial protocol, the statement noted 37 million ECUs will be in the form of grant, and the rest, 63 million, will be in the form of loans to the EIB.

The assistance, it said, will be used mainly to finance food security projects and to help develop industry and technology in the Kingdom. The total loans and

grants for the eight countries according to the statement cover the period between 1987 and 1992. Jordan had earlier received a total of 103 million ECUs from the EC between 1979 and 1986.

The grants and the loans were originally endorsed by the 12-member community group in March when it was announced that Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, and Jordan will be the recipients.

Up to now Jordan has received ECU 103 million from the EC protocols: ECU 63 million in the second financial protocol (1981-1986), and ECU 43 million in the first financial protocol (1979-1981).

Inter-Parliamentary Union backs Mideast peace conference—senator

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting held in the Nicaraguan capital earlier this month was virtually unanimous about the need to hold an international peace conference under U.N. auspices, Senator Walid Salah, head of Jordan's delegation to the conference, said here Tuesday.

Mr. Salah told reporters that the IPU meeting in Managua discussed the participation of the world's parliaments in an international campaign aimed to bring about the convening of the proposed conference to be attended by the U.N. Security Council's five permanent members and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Arabs have to do their utmost in convincing the U.S. administration about the need of holding such a conference" to solve the Mideast issue on a "peaceful and useful" basis, said Senator Salah.

Other main topics on the IPU agenda included the situation in Lebanon, including implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning that problem, and support for international efforts to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

According to the senator, the IPU meeting also discussed all resolutions and statements related to efforts that had been endorsed by the IPU's meetings concerning the Mideast peace.

In addition, the IPU meeting discussed world parliaments' contribution to the establishment of a more equitable world trading system, and the removal of tariffs and other obstacles that impede trade among nations. These have negative effects on social and economic development, Mr. Salah noted.

The delegates also expressed concern about the negative effect of the instability in the world monetary and financial situation, and voiced anxiety over the growing volume of indebtedness to Third World countries, Mr. Salah added.

The IPU meeting, Mr. Salah pointed out, has issued a statement calling on all parliaments to help bring about peace in Central America through intensive diplomatic contacts.

One of the IPU's resolutions endorsed a call for the establishment of a preparatory committee



The head of Jordan's delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Senator Walid Salah (center), with fellow delegate Secretary General of Jordan's Parliament Hani Khair, and host of the IPU's recent meeting in Managua, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

under the U.N. Security Council's auspices, with participation of all permanent U.N. Security Council members, take the steps necessary for convening an international peace conference. Such a preparatory committee would allow progress to be made towards undoing the dangerous knot of tension in the Middle East.

The gathering also reaffirmed its belief that a just and comprehensive settlement of the conflict in the Middle East should envisage Israel's full and unconditional withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967; that the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their rights to self-determination and the establishment of their own state, should be ensured; and that a peaceful and secure existence and independent development for all states and peoples of this area, including Israel, should be guaranteed.

The gathering also requested the inter-parliamentary council to establish a parliamentary support committee to contribute to the international campaign for the successful holding of the international peace conference on the Middle East.

Touching on the almost seven year old Iran-Iraq war, the IPU called on both countries to settle their conflict through negotiations and cooperation with the U.N. secretary general concerning his efforts and proposals related to U.N. Security Council Resolution 582.

The union also called on all other states to refrain from carrying out any acts that might contribute towards a continuation of the war.

The assembly declared a prohibition on armed and other intervention under any pretext whatsoever in the affairs of the region's states in violation of international law.

On the issue of Lebanon and the implementation of the U.N. Security Council decisions, the assembly reiterated its demand for an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and to provide suitable conditions for the United Nations Truce Supervision Force in Lebanon to carry out its mission as envisaged by the numerous U.N. resolutions.

The group also urged all parties concerned to end the cycle of violence in Lebanon and to assist the work of the international relief agencies to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population.

It also invited all governments capable of exercising influence on groups holding hostages to mediate their release.

The IPU strongly voiced its support for Lebanon and its lawful government in establishing security, stability and national unity on its territory, and called for the respect of Lebanese sovereignty and independence.

Aqaba to open camp site for Eid Al Fitr holiday

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) has decided to open the national tourist camping site to members of the public and visitors of the port city during the coming holiday of Eid Al Fitr which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

The decision was announced here Tuesday by Mr. Bassam Qaqish, ARA president, after a meeting with Mr. Zuhair Ajlouni, director of the Tourist Investment Department (TID). The two officials discussed

arrangements for opening the camp site and also signing an agreement between ARA and TID, allowing the latter to assume management of the camp.

The camp project was carried out by ARA on a 350 dunum piece of land at the cost of JD 280,000. The camp site is intended as a means of providing room for the accommodation of visitors to Aqaba at reasonable rates and also of encouraging tourism to the port city.

Mu'ta University adds French to curricula

KARAK (J.T.) — Mu'ta University plans to introduce French language in its humanities curricula in the coming 1987-1988 academic year, according to an announcement here Tuesday.

The announcement was carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, during a visit to the university here by the assistant director of the French Cultural Centre in Amman, Mr. Jean Michael Coste.

It said that Mr. Coste and the University President Dr. Ali Mahafza discussed cooperation in cultural affairs between Jordan and France in general and French help in starting the French language courses at the university in particular.

Dr. Mahafza discussed the prospects of enlisting the help of French linguists to serve as members of Mu'ta University staff and teach French.

Initial agreement has been reached on sending one linguist to teach at the university as of October 1987, according to Mr. Coste. He told the Jordan Times this was an initial arrangement which would be expanded in the future.

The French government, Mr. Coste said, will pay the salary of the French teacher at Mu'ta University.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man sentenced for trafficking

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Abdullah Ali Sa'id Kamal to five years in prison for trafficking in captagon drug pills. The sentence was endorsed by the military governor.

Olympic committee statute endorsed

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday endorsing the Jordanian National Olympic Committee statute. The statute defines the committee's objectives and principles and its role in cooperation with the national sports federations.

Cabinet approves civil aviation group

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday announced its approval of a Jordanian delegation which is scheduled to hold talks with the Syrian civil aviation authorities in promoting Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in civil aviation fields. The delegation will be led by Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority Director Amin Al Hussein.

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Danger of the Gulf

THE missile attack against the U.S. frigate Stark Sunday, coming as it did one day after a sea mine damaged the Soviet tanker Marshal Chukov, should awaken the superpowers from their deep slumber vis-a-vis the Iran-Iraq conflict. The war in the Gulf has been going on for almost seven years now with both Washington and Moscow paying only lip service to attempts aimed at ending it. Now that their immediate interests have been touched directly, it is only fair to expect that the two superpowers should exert more genuine and sincere efforts to bring peace and stability back to the Gulf area.

It is most unfortunate that such efforts by states, which have the means and influence to affect the course of the Gulf war, should come only after the immense suffering and loss of life by both Iraq and Iran and after the death and injury of so many Americans on board the U.S. ship.

In the context of the overriding issue of the continuous war between Iran and Iraq and the subsequent disruption to shipping and navigation in the Gulf, it matters little which warring party had fired on the U.S. frigate. By most reasonable accounts the U.S. navy ship, which was patrolling the Gulf in international waters, was attacked by mistake. Iraq at least would definitely avoid an intentional attack on the U.S. fleet at all costs.

Jordan together with the other Arab countries in the Middle East have been warning for years that the big powers should bring pressure to bear on the recalcitrant party, namely Iran, with a view to ending the senseless Gulf war. The Arab countries have repeatedly warned and cautioned the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council that without their serious efforts the war would simply continue to grow, and engulf other countries. The permanent members of the Security Council and in particular the two superpowers are entrusted with the task and obligation to deal effectively with issues and situations that threaten world peace.

It is most comforting to hear President Ronald Reagan say that the attack on the U.S. frigate "underscores the need to bring the Iran-Iraq war to the prompt end," and that the U.S. and the rest of the international community "must redouble their efforts to hasten settlement that will preserve the sovereign and territorial integrity of both Iran and Iraq." We could not agree more with the president of the U.S., even though we wish he said his words seven years earlier.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Rabin, Shultz agree

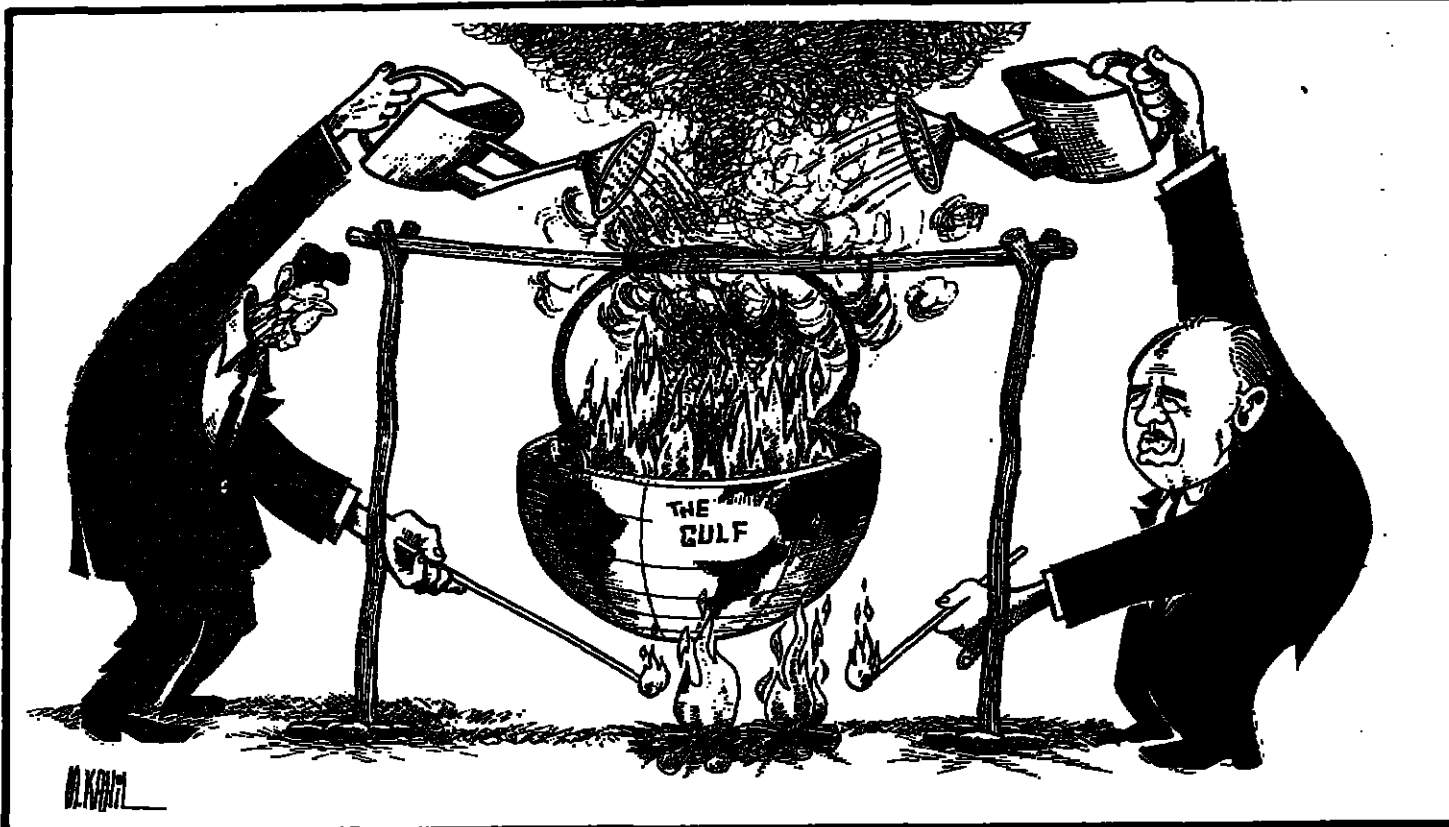
ISRAEL'S Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz both made statements lately concerning their own concepts of peace and an international conference. Rabin, for his part, said that Israel should make a limited withdrawal of forces from Arab land occupied since 1967 but these forces should never give up the city of Jerusalem. Shultz for his part, ignored the question of withdrawal and only made mention of the so-called direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel. He also made it clear that Washington would never take any step leading to the international conference before Israel had taken such a step, and that the U.S. would never contemplate such conference unless Israel had first endorsed it. Shultz did not refer to the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, but said that the present two party coalition government in Israel should come to terms with regard to any peace negotiations. The United States had earlier announced that it regards the proposed conference as a mere ceremonial prelude leading to direct talks between the Israelis and the Arabs, and had explicitly showed its displeasure over the participation of the Soviet Union and European countries in such conference. What Israel and United States want and hope to achieve is a limited meeting in which they can impose their will on the Arabs. But an American-Israeli style of peace can never serve the purpose of stability, security and comprehensive peace that can guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Al Dustour: Calling on superpowers

SUPERPOWER vessels and war ships were exposed to danger in the Gulf region over the past two days in a manner that calls for steps to be taken by the two powers and the world community towards ending war activity in the Gulf. These events and the loss of life underline that the world should act now to stop the bloodshed and prevent the Gulf conflict from spreading and endangering world peace. It is not important to identify the attackers on Soviet or American shipping in the Gulf as much as it is important to find means for ending the tragedy that has been affecting the Arab region and the whole world. The two superpowers which shoulder grave responsibility in maintaining world peace have both been disregarding the sufferings of the people in the Gulf region and have allowed the Iran-Iraq war to drag on for nearly seven years without undertaking serious measures to stop it. The serious events in the Gulf call for speedy action on the part of these superpowers and the whole international community to find a solution for the war and an end to the bloodshed. Their primary task should force Iran to stop its aggression on Arab land and end its threat to world peace and international shipping. The events of the past two days present a good chance for the world community to start taking serious steps for bringing peace to the Gulf.

Sawt Al Shaab: Fuelling a war

WE wonder what the United States would do now following the attack on its frigate in the Gulf waters. Would it send in more war ships to deter future attacks and so openly interfere in the war or would it take steps towards peace? We wonder what the Soviet Union would do after the attack on one of its vessels in the same area. We also wonder if Iran harbours plans for drawing the superpowers into the web of the conflict. Is what happening now connected in one way or another with the recent tour of the region by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, and would the series of events lead towards a catastrophe for the whole Arab region? Iran for its part has been bent on implementing a policy preventing anybody from stopping the war because its rulers continue to benefit from the status quo. For this reason, Tehran continues a drive to expand the war. The superpowers for their part have not yet taken meaningful steps leading to an end to hostilities in the Gulf.



Learning from experience

*At a cafe sat some 'intellectuals';
the subject of discussion was elections.*

By Salim T. Abdo

AT a street-side cafe in Amman on Sunday evening sat several Jordanian "intellectuals" and parliamentary "hopefuls". Their subject of discussion was the voter registration process which had just ended that same evening. The discussion, which lasted well into Monday morning's hour, did not follow any particular pattern. It was overheard to go on something like this:

— Did you hear, there are rumours that the Ministry of Interior is thinking of asking all those who registered for voting to come back to their registration centres with two photographs in order to be issued "voter registration cards"? Nobody can vote without these VR-ID's, they say. It is crazy. Not half of the registered citizens will bother to go back. There's no way some of them can afford it. Besides not all citizens even know where their names have been registered.

— You are totally right. The government cannot be serious about this. Not only because a large percentage of eligible voters do not actually know where their names have been registered, or because they would rather buy rice and sugar for their families with the cost of taking photographs and travelling back — or for the first time — to their registration centres, but because the logical alternative is there. Like they did in the parliamentary by-elections in 1984: Each registered voter, upon reporting to his centre of registration on election day, can present his ID and vote, if his or her name is on the lists.

— Actually I talked to the minister about this today. The government still has not made up its mind about the issue. And I don't think it's serious this business about "voter registration" ID's. Such a project is so difficult if not impossible to carry out.

— I wish I could believe you on this. The record speaks for itself. Look at the other mistakes that have been made in the context of the registration process. Look at the flaws in the new electoral law of 1986. Even the government itself complains of that loophole whereby many Amman residents registered their names — or their names were registered for them — in other districts of the Kingdom. This is cheating — to register away from your place of work or residence — some ministers have said. Whose fault is it that we now have the weirdest patterns of voter registration in the whole world? Why couldn't the Civil Registration Department do its job of producing voter lists in precincts and save everybody the trouble of having to register in the first place, as if you did not exist before?

— Not all government departments have computers, you know! The government has its priorities in computerisation. But you are definitely right. We still are so far off from the sophisticated electoral machine that other countries have and that we badly need.

— You mean, this being the first impending general polls in 20 years, people have forgotten how to prepare for elections, or what? What is wrong is wrong. There should have been better organisation than this.

How come this is the first time in Jordan's history that voter registration is conducted before election dates have been announced? Throughout the fifties and sixties a royal decree would be issued fixing the dates for registration and elections simultaneously. It is only now that we have an incumbent government registering voters for an election that might not take place for another year or two.

— Incidentally, this is the biggest problem of all. I don't understand how a government, whose members — or at least a good number of them — are standing for election, can be entrusted with the task of registration. Can't the candidate members of parliament who are ministers use their influence to draw up registration patterns favourable to themselves? Isn't there a law prohibiting even the most junior of civil servants from keeping his job if he is standing for parliament? How come this important point was overlooked, I don't know.

— Listen, you are right. But the important thing remains that democracy is a process, and in order to reach true democracy, you've got to start somewhere. In three, four elections from now these shortcomings can and have to be overcome. For God's sake, let us have elections first, and then we will learn from our mistakes. This, in my opinion, is the only way.

— Fine, if you think like this. However, one has to look at the experience of others in order to be able to judge. I was in Egypt during their last parliamentary elections in April. The picture of electioneering was totally different from ours. There you had a lively campaign — a real political battle. Here, it seems, only tribal chieftains are battling it out. Where are the political parties, the political platforms, and the banners across the streets that are a story unto themselves?

— Egypt, brother, is a different example. Altogether so. While it is true the Egyptians are novices in neo-democratic practices, their state nevertheless is 7,000 years old. We can't compare Jordan to them. Do you know that until decades ago in Britain, for instance, noblemen and feudalists used to buy their way into parliament? A thousand-pound bribe got you a membership in parliament. What the heck if our nouveau riche, the tribal chieftains, tried it on us now?

— Nothing wrong, doctor, except that twenty, thirty years ago these chieftains swore allegiance to the political candidates. Very few of them would contest parliamentary seats with political leaders like Suleiman Nabulsi, Abdul Rahman Shghair and Abdul Halim Nimr. Jordan itself seems to have changed. That's all.

— We will have to wait and see what happens with those. It is too early to even say whether we will have elections this year. Now tell us what jolks the Egyptians cracked about their elections. I have not heard one about ours.

— We are not in elections yet, remember!

U.S. ships ordered to shoot back

(Continued from page 1)

scheduled budget hearing that two U.S.-supplied Saudi Arabian F-15 jets were scrambled into the air when the Iraqi jets were first spotted on Sunday by a Saudi AWACS (airborne warning and control system) plane manned by Americans.

Republican Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska said he understood the AWACS asked the F-15s to follow the Iraqi planes "but they refused."

Mr. Weinberger said that was contrary to his information. He said the F-15 pilots requested permission to approach the Iraqi planes, but Saudi ground controllers refused because the Iraqi jets did not appear to be threatening.

"That seems reasonable to us," Mr. Weinberger said. "This happens a number of times every day."

U.S. officials said the Stark's captain, Commander Glenn Brindel, may have been caught by surprise by an unexpected attack from planes of a friendly nation.

Mr. Weinberger said Commander Brindel had reported "all weapons operational" on Sunday morning before the attack.

There was explanation why the ship's rapid-fire "Phalanx" gun — capable of putting up a 3,000 rounds-a-minute curtain of anti-missile fire — had not been activated during the killer rocket's flight of up to 80 seconds.

Mr. Weinberger on Monday disputed an explanation from the Iraqi ambassador to the United States, Nizar Hamdoun. The envoy said Iraqi warplanes had targeted a suspected Iranian ship 20 nautical miles from the Stark.

"I think he was aiming at that ship," Mr. Weinberger told the

ABC television network. "I think the real situation is he did not know it was an American ship. And that's why, as I've called it, it was a ghastly error on his part."

Iraqi warplanes hit another ship in the 40 to 60 nautical miles from the Stark earlier in the day and missed another one in roughly that same area, Mr. Weinberger said.

France said Sunday's attack on the Stark highlighted the need to end the Gulf war but pledged to continue selling arms to Iraq.

"This drama shows that it is imperative to try to put an end to the war between Iran and Iraq, which is an absurd war," Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond said.

The frigate Stark was hit in the berthing area by a French-built Exocet missile, supplied by France.

Describing the attack as an error, Mr. Raimond said it would not alter France's policy of selling arms to Iraq, which has been at war with Iran for more than six years.

"Everyone knows that France has provided Iraq with military aid for a number of years. It will continue to do so normally in execution of its contracts with this country at war," he said in a radio interview.

In Moscow, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman called for a negotiated end to the Iran-Iraq war and a reduction in the U.S. naval presence in the Gulf after the "tragic event" on Sunday.

"The (Arab) Gulf is so to say a concentration of all the difficulties brought about by military tensions and hostilities," spokesman Boris Pyadyshev told reporters at a briefing. "This is proved by the mishap with the Soviet tanker and by the tragic event

that happened to the American naval ship as a result of which dozens of lives were lost."

The attack was the deadliest in the Gulf since Iran and Iraq went to war in September 1980 and began attacking commercial ships in an effort to cripple each other's economies.

The Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France have warships patrolling the Gulf to protect their merchant vessels.

The Stark had been on patrol to protect U.S. merchant vessels in the Gulf region.

The Soviet tanker Marshal Chukov, on its first trip to the Gulf under a lease agreement with Kuwait, struck a mine on Sunday and sustained damage to its bow. No casualties have been reported in that accident.

"We are for an immediate cessation of hostilities," Pyadyshev said, repeating Kremlin call for a negotiated settlement of the Gulf conflict.

Asked if the Soviet Union and the United States might meanwhile cooperate to safeguard merchant shipping in the Gulf, through which much of the world's oil flows, Pyadyshev said: "A first step towards this would be a sharp decline in U.S. military activity and presence in the area, renunciation of support for those quarters that pursue aggression and real interest by the U.S. leadership in cooperation."

TASS news agency said U.S. naval patrols in the Gulf were an increasing menace to the whole Middle East region.

It also accused Washington of keeping the nearly seven-year Gulf war alive, in part through secret arms shipments to Iran, to satisfy its own strategic interests.

In an interview published Tuesday, Mr. Reagan reaffirmed his commitment to ending the Iran-Iraq war and to halting the sale of arms to either nation. The interview with the independent Kuwait newspaper Al Qabas was conducted in Washington on May 12.

Mr. Reagan said the United States, which is officially neutral in the seven-year war, is working with other countries who "want to see this long, costly, destabilising and tragic war brought to a negotiated end in the quickest time possible," the paper said.

"We... continue to work for a settlement that will preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Iran and Iraq," Mr. Reagan was quoted as saying.

"I have urged the international community, in the appropriate fora and through the appropriate mechanisms, to work for an immediate cease-fire, negotiations and withdrawal to borders."

The president was quoted as saying he would strongly support "effective action" by the United Nations in ending the war, but he did not elaborate.

According to the report, Mr. Reagan said Iran was the intransigent party in the conflict, occupying Iraqi territory and trying to take more.

British defence chiefs have urgently reviewed manoeuvres of two frigates stationed in the Gulf following Sunday's attack, a ministry of defence spokesman said today.

The spokesman said they believed the Iraqi attack was a mistake.

Egypt, with close links to both Iraq and the United States, has deplored the missile attack as a possible threat to freedom of navigation in the waterway.

West Germans unwilling to be counted in census

By Richard Williams
 Reuter

BONN — A large number of West Germans, belying the national reputation for orderliness, seem unwilling to be counted in a controversial census planned for this month.

It will be the first census in West Germany since 1970, and follows seven years of legal and procedural battles.

Slogans calling on citizens to boycott the survey have appeared throughout the country, a leading magazine has explained how to avoid the census-taker and the headquarters of the Greens Party in Bonn has been raided to seize anti-census leaflets.

"Only sheep let themselves be counted," read the headlines of the leaflets, which were seized on the orders of the city's public prosecutor last month.

In the central city of Kassel, police discovered 1,000 forged census forms, which they believe could have been part of a plan to sabotage the census. In another town arsonists burnt down an office used by census officials.

The government, seeking to encourage public participation in the census on May 25, is spending 30 million marks (\$16.75 million) on the largest state-funded publicity campaign in West German history with nightly television advertising, posters, and leaflets.

"Census '87 — 10 minutes that can help us all," reads one poster. "Help us to help the chances of your children."

A government-commissioned opinion poll showed that up to seven per cent of the population would probably boycott the census despite of rising fines of up to 10,000 marks (\$5,590) from their local authorities, who can fill in the forms for those who refuse to complete the census.

The survey showed three per cent of the 900 people questioned in the poll would definitely refuse to participate.

The government and the federal statistics office both say the census is necessary for social and economic planning, and even to find out exactly how many West Germans there actually are. Estimates put the population at more than 60 million.

Officials say it is especially important as two previous attempts to hold a such a survey

have failed.

The former left-liberal government of Helmut Schmidt failed in 1980 to hold a census because of a row with local authorities over who should pay for it.

Three years later, the courts blocked a census planned by Schmidt's conservative successor Helmut Kohl, forcing the government to redraft legislation with increased safeguards for personal privacy.

The questions asked in the census forms may seem innocuous enough to a non-German.

One form asks about age, religion, employment and what form of public transport the respondent uses to get to work.

The other form asks about living conditions, the age and size of one's house, and whether it is rented or owner-occupied.

But opponents of the measure, led by the Greens, remain distrustful of the government's motive in calling the census, despite official pledges that personal information will not be fed into police or other state data banks.

They point out the state already has access to a lot of information about its citizens. All West Germans have to carry forged-proof identity cards, which officials at customs posts can check using machines linked to police computers.

West Germans must also register with the local authority when moving house and complete a form giving details about themselves and their families.

A privately-commissioned poll showed up to 50 per cent of those who said they would complete the census were mistrustful of the use to which it could be put.

The head of the federal statistics office, Egon Hoelder, dismisses such fears, pointing out that people freely supply information to other public authorities.

"Why the census, why not the tax office or the health authorities?" he said.

The Greens, the Communist Party and other groups opposed to the census have urged people to disrupt the poll, saying that if five per cent of the population — approximately three million people — refuse to reply or supplies false information, it will be useless.

LETTERS

Mind your smoke

To the Editor:

RECENTLY I have had reason to travel a number of times to Syria by JETT bus and each time have been seriously bothered by the cigarette smoke of fellow passengers (always male). I should perhaps say here that I am at present a non-smoker, but have been a smoker for many years and will no doubt be one again. But in a confined space of a bus or car, or even an aeroplane where it is impossible to escape the smoke, I have never lit a cigarette.

In the West we are making tremendous efforts to preserve the rights of the non-smoker to breathe fresh air, without infringing upon the rights of the smoker to smoke. The conclusion is almost always that smoking has to be prohibited in confined public spaces where it is impossible not to contaminate other people's air, and to designate specific smoking areas in larger public places. It is extremely thoughtful and selfish in a public transport bus, where the windows do not open, to puff wreaths of smoke into the faces of other travellers. Either the JETT bus service should prohibit smoking altogether in their vehicles or require smokers to confine themselves to the rear of the bus where the exhaust fan is located. It would be extremely simple to ask passengers when they purchase their tickets whether they require the smoking or non-smoking section, just as the airlines do. Not to react is to have total disdain or disregard for the rights of non-smoking passengers.

Jordanians are so incredibly polite and no one has ever started to eat on the bus without asking me first if I wished to share their meal. I do wish that this courtesy could be extended to asking me if their smoking disturbed me.

Jennifer Dierckx de Casterle
 Amman

'None of your business'

To the Editor:

OVER the telephone, I asked: "What is the procedure. I must take to bring a Sudanese housekeeper?"

At the other end of the line, a gentleman at the Ministry of Interior answered: "They are not allowed to come to the country."

Having a housekeeper from Sudan myself for one year, and knowing that they were to come and work here, I asked, "Since when?"

He replied: "Since two weeks or one month." As he said this, another man on the line broke in saying, "Who is this?"

I answered: "I am asking about bringing a girl from Sudan." Very rudely, the interfering official from the ministry said: "He already told you they are not allowed in Jordan."

Being a reporter, I asked: "May I ask why?" He replied bluntly, raising his voice: "Why should you know? It is none of your business." At this, the first gentleman I was speaking to went off the line. The other one continued: "Bring a Sri Lankan girl. You don't have to have one from Sudan."

I answered him: "I want to know because my Sudanese housekeeper is leaving and I want to bring another girl from Sudan because they are Arabs and Muslims and know our language and traditions. I don't want a Sri Lankan housekeeper. I am also asking because I am a reporter."

The man shouted on the telephone: "Why do you pretend you're only enquiring when you're actually a reporter?" I again asked the ministry official why Sudanese housekeepers are now not allowed. He referred me to another person to ask at the ministry. He gave me the name and hung up.

Sana Adiyeh
 Amman

Myrdal influenced Third World A great review of the dead

STOCKHOLM — Gunnar Myrdal, the Nobel Prize-winning Swedish economist and sociologist who died May 17 at the age of 88, left a deep mark on the history of race relations in America, the postwar development of the Third World and the birth of the welfare state in his native Sweden.

Myrdal, joint winner of the 1974 Nobel Economics Prize, began as a passionate believer in the possibilities of improving the human condition through social reform, but reality finally left him disillusioned.

"We grew towards the end of our life not having changed our basic ideals, but looking on the world as really going to hell in every possible respect," he said, speaking of himself and his late wife Alva, a joint winner of the 1982 Nobel Peace Prize.

International recognition came to Myrdal in 1944 when he published "An American Dilemma", a highly critical study of the conditions facing blacks in the United States, which soon became a standard work.

But he had first made his mark in a book written with his wife 10 years earlier, "Crisis in the Population Issue", in which they advanced revolutionary ideas about how to stem the decline in Sweden's birthrate.

As a result Myrdal was chosen to head a government commission on Sweden's population crisis, one of the many roles in which he helped shape modern Swedish society.

In old age, however, he came to repudiate the system he had helped to build and drew unfavourable comparisons between the politics of the present and those of the 1930s.

Karl Gunnar Myrdal was born on December 6, 1898, in the village of Skattungbyn, the son of a carpenter.

The formative influence on his early education came from the philosophers who inspired the French revolution.

"The (French 18th century) enlightenment philosophy was fundamentally optimistic — bad things did not come from nature, human beings were good and we could improve conditions through reforms," he told The Times of London.

Myrdal studied law at Stockholm University. On graduating in 1927, he studied abroad before returning to Sweden to lecture on political economy.

In 1935 he entered parliament as a Social Democratic deputy. He spent most of World War II in the United States, writing "An American Dilemma", but returned in 1944.

After the war Myrdal was appointed minister of commerce. He was forced to impose drastic import restrictions and rationing because of a domestic currency crisis in 1947, but he always rejected charges that his policies had caused the upheaval, blaming it on his cabinet colleagues.

Later in the year he resigned from the government to become executive secretary of the United

Nations Economic Commission for Europe, a post he kept until 1957.

In 1960, he was appointed professor of international economy at Stockholm University and from 1967 to 1973 served as chairman of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

In 1974, he shared the Nobel Economics Prize with the Austrian-born Professor Friedrich von Hayek. The Swedish academy of sciences said he had been chosen largely because of his 1944 study of the plight of America's blacks.

Three years later, Myrdal caused a sensation when he called for the abolition of the Nobel Economics Prize after it was awarded to the American monetarist Milton Friedman.

In 1968 Myrdal published "Asian Drama: An Inquiry into the Poverty of Nations" which confirmed him as an expert in relations between the developed and developing countries.

In 1924, Gunnar Myrdal married Alva Reimer, who was to become one of Sweden's most distinguished women and serve as the world's first minister of disarmament. He often spoke of the deep happiness brought to him by his marriage, which ended with Alva's death in 1986.

But in an autobiography published in 1982, his son Jan painted a picture of family life which was far from idyllic and in which he accused his famous parents of cruelty. *Reuter*

By Lin Haixiang

A recent exhibition of calligraphy and painting by China's contemporary late masters in Peking provides a chance for a great review of 100 deceased artists. A thorough study of them will be positive to the advancement of China's art in modern times. The peak of success reached by Chinese artists in this century is reflected in their 223 works on display.

SOME artists' careers show kick-off promise at an early age while others, such as Huang Qiuyuan, are acclaimed only after they die. A master of traditional Chinese painting, especially good at mountains-and-water painting, Huang spent a lifetime as a poor, unknown artist.

In the spring of 1986, Huang's posthumous exhibit of scrolls of painting attracted wide attention from artists, critics and the viewing public. His paintings have been collected by China's National Art Gallery, and he has been described as "a lost pearl."

Again this spring, Huang along with 108 other established painters and calligraphers who died since the founding of New China in 1949, have drawn admiration from spectators. An exhibition of Calligraphy and Painting by China's Contemporary Late Masters has been held in the Painting Museum in Peking's Forbidden City. Displayed are 223 representative works, most of which haven't been published, or shown before.

One of Huang Qiuyuan's is a tableau, "Stony Mountain and Ragged Trees." On top of the precipice of a towering mountain are somber trees whispering into milky clouds. At the foot of the mountain, weather-beaten huts crouch beside a tumbling stream. The sense of undisturbed emptiness is intensified by black ink dots and brush lines covering the entire painting.

Wu Zuoren, chairman of the Chinese Artists' Association, acknowledging a Chinese standard of sensing a picture's charm, rather than trying to explain it in words, goes ahead to say, "This picture is a symphony of lines and colours. Each stroke is a dancing note, showing its strength and vigour. Huang deserves the title of master artist."

Born in 1914 in Nanchang county, Jiangxi province, Huang worked as a teenaged apprentice in a shop that mounted paintings. The job gave him an opportunity to copy ancient paintings and calligraphy. He quickly mastered the techniques of traditional ways of painting, and pursued the highest forms in his art throughout life.

Li Keran, 80, one of Qi's former disciples who is also an advisor of the exhibition, says, "The semi-transparent shrimps and crabs Qi Baishi painted seem to be more lively than living ones. His keen observation brought about the simplicity and order of the picture."

Qi Baishi was born in 1861 of a poor family in Xiangtan county, Hunan province. He was a carpenter when young, without much formal schooling. Through his own tenacious efforts, he acquired a profound knowledge of

the world. When he died, at the age of 96, Qi left a rich legacy in the arts, best incorporated in the flowers and birds he painted. They were the symbol of the painter's inner longings for a peaceful natural life.

Qi was a hard-working painter. To avoid meaningless interruptions and time-killing social activities, he once posted an announcement on his door: "Qi Baishi is dead!"

Very much alive, he said in reviewing his art career, "I do best in poetry, seal-engraving the second, calligraphy the third and painting the fourth." Chinese art critics say that every item on the paper — painting, calligraphy and seal — becomes an inseparable part of Qi's masterpieces. According to the usual practice of Chinese painters, Qi wrote some lines of poetry and affixed his seal to his painting.

While Qi strived for perfection in flower-and-bird painting, Jiang Zhaohe, another painter represented in the show, spent all his life in figure painting. He died last year at the age of 82. Jiang had formed a style of his own which is easily recognisable.

"Jiang Zhaohe's paintings are exquisite and true to life," says Fan Zeng, a middle-aged painter and a former student of Jiang. "He painted the face of a figure very minutely while he painted only some bold strokes for the figure's clothes."

Figure painting in traditional Chinese ink and wash is difficult because each stroke must stand; it cannot be erased or improved. Lian Kai and Shi Ke, two painters of the Song Dynasty (960-1279), masters of this art, inspired figure-painters over the years. Their philosophy of "painting the appearance to depict the spirit" has been practiced by generations of painters, including Jiang Zhaohe.

One of Jiang's contemporaries, Xu Beihong (1895-1953) had complained of the lack of figures and people's activities in Chinese painting. Jiang answered that complaint with "A Portrait of Refugees," a gigantic painting two metres high and 27 metres wide, portraying the different images of around 100 refugees.

Painted in the 40s, the picture depicts the suffering of Chinese people under the Japanese invasion. On display in the exhibition is Jiang's large portrait of Cao Cao, king of Wei during the Period of Three Kingdoms (220-265). The painter drew a vivid and lively portrayal, according to historical



"Stony Mountain and Ragged Trees" by Huang Qiuyuan shows the strength and vigour of traditional Chinese painting.

descriptions of the ancient politician and strategist. With his long beard hanging down over his red robe, squinting at something ahead, Cao appears to be planning another major operation.

Besides painting, calligraphy also shares the spotlight at the exhibit. As a basic requirement for Chinese scholars, and unique in its importance in the culture, China's calligraphy can be traced back to the Shang Dynasty (16th-11th century B.C.) from inscriptions found on bones and tortoise shells. During the years, many masters have made their individual contributions to this Oriental art.

One of them represented in the show is Guo Moruo (1892-1978). A versatile scholar who had a rare talent, he was born in a small town near the Yangtze river in Sichuan province. Such a setting must have influenced Guo, who received education in an old-style private school. Just as the Yangtze grows from tiny streams in its upper reaches into China's longest river, Chinese culture has developed through 5,000 years to contemporary appreciation of the arts.

In Guo's later years, he became a world-famous scholar as writer, poet, historian, dramatist and anthropologist. Like other noted men of learning, he wrote a good hand. Guo's hand-writing has been termed as "Guo style of calligraphy" by some specialists. "Guo Moruo has something particular in his layout and writing of a piece of calligraphy," says Cao, one of the organisers of the exhibition. "He was especially good at a running hand. His strokes are elegant and untrained, like the wind."

Artist Yu Feng, a professor of painting, praises the exhibition of calligraphy and painting by China's contemporary late masters. She says they show their solid foundation of skills and their ingenious composition. "Some young painters who admire Western modernism in art have questioned if there is a developing tradition of art in recent decades. The exhibition provides a convincing answer," she says.

Show organiser Li Cao told reporters: "The exhibition sponsored by the Ministry of Culture roughly shows the course of development and the process of these Chinese artists reached. A thorough study of them will be positive to the advancement of our art in the future."

Though these artists are no longer living, their works have survived to be part of China's treasury of art. Their names, together with their creative work, will be remembered in history — China feature.

Perils which threaten world

The world is under threat, a U.N.-sponsored body says. Poor soil is being over-used, felling of trees and excessive pumping of water destroy arable land, deserts spread and populations expand. Max Wilkinson reports on a call to conserve Earth's resources.

LONDON — Ever since Malthus's treatise on the growth of world population, predictions of global doom have had a poor track record, mainly because science has come up with so many surprises.

Medieval man, for example, would never have dreamt that the world could support its present population of nearly 5 billion and it may be that the 8.2 billion population that the United Nations expects in the year 2025 will be supported with greater ease than most people now think.

However, the chances do not seem good. A 380-page report published by the U.N.-sponsored World Commission on Environment and Development identifies big dangers, some of which could disturb the earth's climate if they are not dealt with in good time.

The report, drawn up by experts from 21 countries under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, prime minister of Norway, points out that many so-called "natural disasters" in recent years result partly from over-exploitation of the land.

Moreover, in spite of the rapid progress of agricultural techniques, the number of hungry in the

world is now thought to be greater than at any time in history.

In theory at least, the world could now produce enough food to eliminate starvation, but at the beginning of this decade about 340 million people were close to starvation.

One of the major problems identified in the report is that the increasingly desperate efforts of poorer people to increase agricultural output are damaging the land, perhaps irreparably.

Over-use of poor soils in hot countries, the felling of trees for fuel and for timber, exports and the excessive pumping of water from underground aquifers are all helping to destroy arable land and to encourage deserts to expand, the report says.

The loss of forests not only deprives future generations of wood supplies but can lead to climatic changes, flooding in low-land areas and general erosion of the soil. The commission estimates that 6 million hectares (2.4 million acres) a year of productive land is being turned into desert. In three decades, this would amount to an area the size of Saudi Arabia.

More than 11 million hectares

of forest are being destroyed each year, and over three decades this would amount to an area the size of India. The report says: "Much of this forest is converted to low-grade farm land unable to support the farmers who settle it."

It says that, during the 1970s, twice as many people suffered each year from natural disasters as during the 1960s, adding: "The disasters most directly associated with environmental and development mismanagement — droughts and floods — affected the most people and increased the most sharply."

In the 1960s, about 19 million people were affected by drought annually compared with about 24 million in the 1970s.

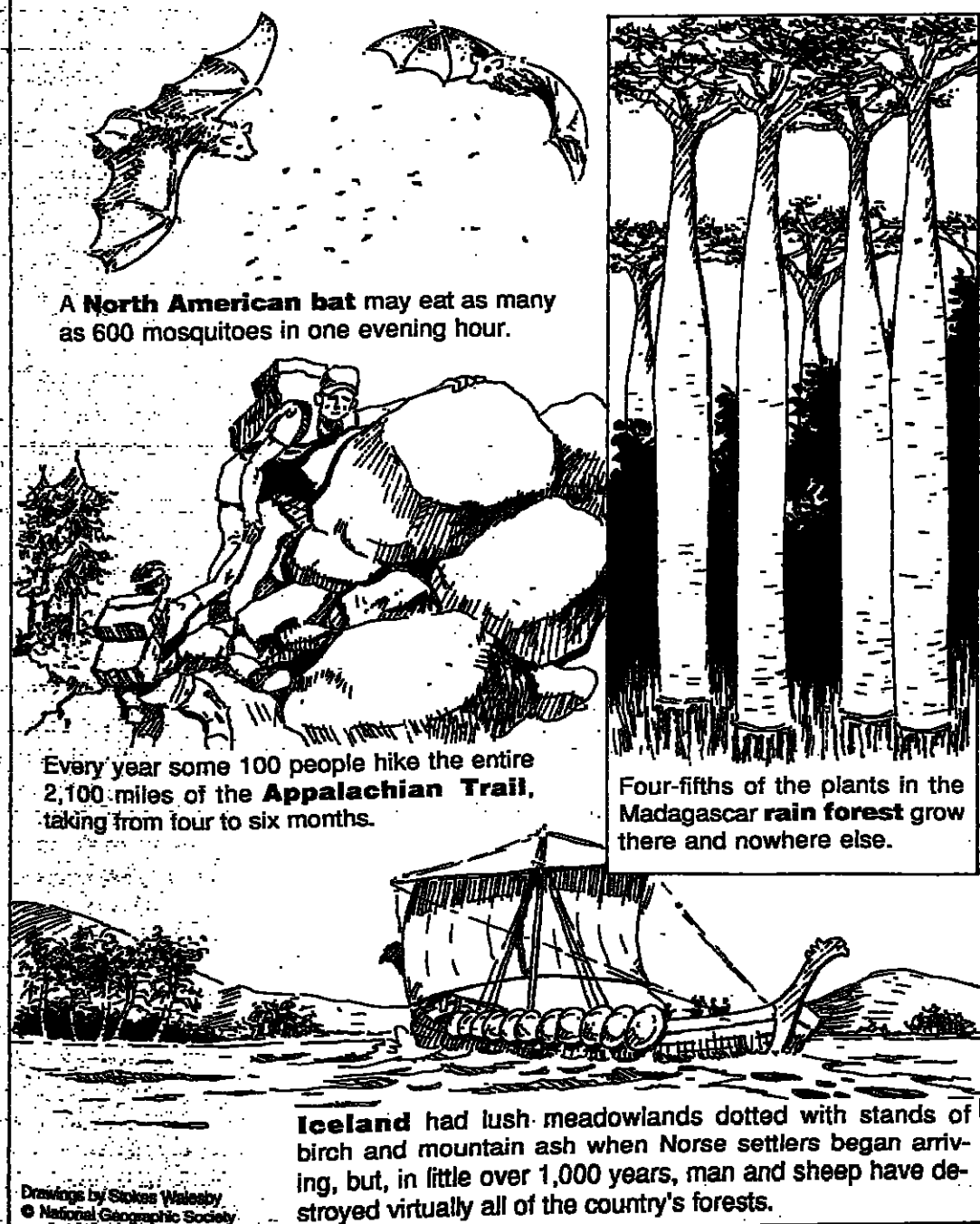
The report says: "The results are not in for the 1980s. But we have seen 35 million afflicted by drought in Africa alone."

In addition to these specific threats, and the over-fishing and pollution of the oceans, the report also deals with the more general danger resulting from increased accumulations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the destruction of atmospheric ozone by aerosol sprays.

Financial Times feature.

Our Common Future, by the World Commission on Environment and Development (Oxford University Press).

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS GRAPHIC



A North American bat may eat as many as 600 mosquitoes in one evening hour.

Every year some 100 people hike the entire 2,100 miles of the Appalachian Trail, taking from four to six months.

Four-fifths of the plants in the Madagascar rain forest grow there and nowhere else.

Iceland had lush meadowlands dotted with stands of birch and mountain ash when Norse settlers began arriving, but, in little over 1,000 years, man and sheep have destroyed virtually all of the country's forests.

U.K. civil servants find greener pastures

Britain under Margaret Thatcher has been pursuing privatisation. One of the unforeseen side-effects of this course is that civil servants are quitting in a steady trickle to earn more money in the very industries they helped to privatise. Hazel Duffy reports.

LONDON — "Better prospects, better pay," are the reasons why Mr. Zaki Douek has left the British government's Department of Transport for the private sector. A few weeks ago, he was managing the privatisation of the National Bus Company. Now he is working for another former civil servant, Mr. Michael Casey, founder of a public affairs consultancy which has been absorbed by the Saatchi and Saatchi advertising group.

Mr. Douek's knowledge of the government machine and negotiating experience will be vital in the job he is taking. Many other former civil servants, working in the City in particular, have found employers who value their

Whitehall experience. Many more still in the civil service are looking for ways out.

Undertakings to give some civil servants more money, in addition to the civil service pay award, were given by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, prime minister, on April 23. They are partly the result of pressure from the cabinet office, responsible for civil service personnel management, and the treasury. Mr. Richard Luce, junior civil service minister, is also pressing hard for measures to encourage senior civil servants to stay.

There is scepticism that the aim will succeed. "In relation to the virtually automatic 50 per cent increase in salaries that they can

get outside, the amounts of money that the government is talking about seem to be much too small," says one senior civil servant.

From October 1, discretionary increments for staff in the two grades immediately below permanent secretary will become operational, following recommendations last year by the Top Salaries Review Body.

The top salary for grade 2 — taking into account the increase for this year — will be £45,000 (£75,980). Civil servants will be eligible for three incremental bands, to be awarded on performance criteria, which could take them to a maximum of £54,000. Grade 3 civil servants, whose maximum is £36,000, could go up to £43,000.

Assessment of the individual's performance will be strict, in accordance with agreed guide-

lines. The extra money is "for the best performers in recognition of sustained high performance," said Mrs. Thatcher. Sceptics suspect that having qualified for the first increment, it will be well nigh impossible to get another.

A performance-related scheme for grades 4 to 7 is also to be drawn up. These are grades where morale is described as "pretty low." The government has said the scheme will take into account experience with the performance bonus experiment — an experiment deemed largely by those involved as divisive and inadequate.

As an interim measure while the scheme is being worked out, a performance increment for grade 5 employees, who have been on their scale maximum for at least a year, is proposed.

Pay is one factor. Prospects — or lack of them — are just as

important. Cuts in the upper reaches have been proportionately as severe as in the rest of the service. That means fewer promotion prospects, and longer waits for the next hike.

In addition, in departments such as transport, energy and industry, privatisation programmes have taken away chunks of responsibility, particularly from those in policy areas.

Privatisation has also proved a channel for outside jobs. Several senior civil servants have come into contact with the City in this way, and been offered jobs. Others have taken high level jobs in the very industries they helped to privatise.

Traditionally, the ministry of defence lost the highest numbers in the civil service to companies with which they had frequent contact.

Financial Times feature.

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French title-holders beaten in first tie

DUESSELDORF (R) — Defending champions France were beaten by Argentina in their opening tie at the \$750,000 World Team Tennis Cup on Tuesday.

In the day's other tie Australia were also unable to match their epic feat in winning last year's Davis Cup as they fell to Czechoslovakia.

France got off to a bad start when Thierry Tulasne lost 7-6, 6-2 to Argentina's veteran clay court expert Guillermo Vilas.

But worse was to come when Henri Leconte, who enjoys folk hero status at Duesseldorf's Rochus Club where the crowd adore his swashbuckling style and his clowning, lost 7-6, 7-6 to Martin Jaite.

Leconte, who has an impressive record in the annual eight-nation event, has only just returned to the circuit after a bad back injury and was rarely able to find his rhythm.

He held three set points in the first set at 6-5 when Jaite was 0-40 down on service but three mistakes cost him his chance and Jaite went on to take the tiebreak

7-5.

Jaite also got the best of a second set tiebreaker 7-2 to settle the tie before the doubles.

France must now win both their ties with the United States and Spain in the red group to have a chance of reaching Sunday's final.

Australia's Davis Cup hero Pat Cash had never met Miloslav Mecir, the "Big Cat" from Czechoslovakia since they were juniors and he found the world number five's unusual style difficult to handle on clay, a surface Cash does not favour.

Mecir won 6-4, 7-6 after saving six set points in the second set but made too many errors himself to be happy with his game.

"I just don't have my best feeling for the ball on clay at the moment," he said. "I haven't played much on clay this year. If I play like this I won't have much chance at the French Open."

Milan Srejber wrapped up a Czechoslovak victory before the concluding doubles by beating Wally Masur 6-3, 7-6.

The blue group winner is likely to be decided on Friday when Czechoslovakia face Sweden, who beat West Germany on Monday.

Lendl seeded number one in French Open

PARIS (AP) — Defending champion Ivan Lendl will be top seed in the French Open Tennis Tournament May 25-June 7, the organisers have said.

The top 16 seeds are established by their placement in the most recent rankings of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

The Czechoslovakian-born Lendl, now living in Connecticut, took the title last year, defeating Mikael Pernfors of Sweden in three sets in the final. Pernfors, unseeded last year, is now 13th.

Lendl has won one tournament this year. Last week he lost in the third round of the Italian Open, where he was also defending champion, to Joakim Nystrom of Sweden.



Lendl... will be still reign?

Boris Becker of West Germany is seeded second. The two-time Wimbledon champion has yet to win a clay court tournament.

The French Open takes place on the red, clay courts of Paris's Roland Garros Stadium.

Stefan Edberg of Sweden, the two-time Australian Open champion, is number 3 and another Swede, Mats Wilander, is number 4.

Wilander is fresh from two clay court victories at the Monte Carlo and Italian Opens and appears to be the favourite.



Al-Duftein defeats Al-Faisali 2 to 1: Al-Duftein goalkeeper Zaher Nouri moves to "embrace" the ball, before Al-Faisali centre Naser Abdul Fattah has the chance to reach it, during a match held on Monday night which was won by Al-Duftein 2 to 1.

The first half-time, however, was won by Al Faisali 1:0. The result of the match, which was held within the Association Shield Tournament, pushed the Al-Duftein to the finals. (Photo by Yousef Al'Allan)

Navratilova top seed, Graf number 2

PARIS (AP) — Martina Navratilova, without a tournament victory this year, is seeded number 1 in the French Open Tennis Tournament May 25-June 7, the organisers have said.

Navratilova was given the top seed because of her latest Women's International Tennis Association (ITA) rankings, based on results of the last 12 months.

Steffi Graf of West Germany is number 2 seed, defending champion Chris Evert is number 3 and Australian Open champion Hana Mandlikova, number 4.

On the basis of recent form, Graf could be considered the favourite to win her first Grand Slam title.

The 17-year-old Graf has won six tournaments in a row and has a winning streak of 32 straight matches. She knocked off Navratilova in the Lipton International Tournament in March. Last week she added the Italian Open title to her collection.

Bulgaria to meet Luxembourg

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria meets Luxembourg for the second time in three weeks in their European Soccer Championship qualifying Group Seven on Wednesday confident of a second win that would push them to the top of their group.

Bulgaria are currently second in the group with six points from four matches, one point less than current leaders Belgium who, however, have played five games. "We must win at all costs," Bulgarian team manager Khristo

Mladenov said. "We have no other choice and the situation is most favourable for us."

Three weeks ago the Bulgarians won 4-1 in Luxembourg against a team boasting only three professional players and which has so far not won a single qualification match.

The Bulgarians are clear favourites, but I think we performed well at home and we shall try for a draw here," Luxembourg manager Philipp Paul said. "Even winning one point would be a tremendous boost to our morale."

Mladenov said he would make few or no changes from the team which played in Luxembourg and would again rely on the scoring touch of midfielders Nasko Sirakov, Lachezar Tanev and Khristo Kolev backed by a reliable defence organised by Georgi Dimitrov of St. Etienne.

On the Luxembourg side Paul can hope that midfielder Robby Langers will repeat his spectacular feat in Luxembourg when he scored with a powerful shot from near the halfway line to surprise an otherwise reliable Borislav Mikhailov in goal.



Martina Navratilova

McEnroe, out of shape, seeks to regain the magician's touch

ROME (R) — By general consent, John McEnroe reached his peak in the summer of 1984.

At the age of 25, he touched genius by collecting his third Wimbledon title and a fourth U.S. Open crown in July and September.

The triumphs served testimony to McEnroe's mastery over the rest — a humiliated Jimmy Connors won a mere four games in the Wimbledon final, while Ivan Lendl prised just eight off his tormentor at Flushing Meadows in New York.

A third Grand Slam title was denied him when he was uncharacteristically frozen by nerves in the final of the French Open at Roland Garros where he bowed to Lendl in five sets after leading 6-3, 6-2, 4-2.

Three years later, that defeat by the Czechoslovak — now firmly installed as the world's number one — continues to rankle, and McEnroe has concentrated his energies this season on an attempt to become the first American to win the French title since Tony Trabert in 1955.

Despite a delicacy of touch unrivalled in the modern game and a sorcerer's talent for conjuring "impossible" winners, McEnroe remains deeply mistrustful of clay, a surface on which he has never won in Europe.

The absence of a victory in France is the one blank on my record," said McEnroe, who competed in his first Italian Open last week as part of his preparation for this year's French Open beginning on May 25.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Maltese squad unchanged for Sweden match

VALLETTA (R) — Malta soccer coach Gentscho Dobrev named an unchanged squad on Tuesday to meet Sweden in European Soccer Championship Group Two qualifying match in Gothenburg next Sunday. Despite their 4-1 defeat by Switzerland last month, Dobrev said he had full confidence in the 16-strong squad. But he added that the Swedes were a tough, fast side. The Maltese must avoid making mistakes in the early stages of the game, he said, referring to their hesitant start against the Swiss. The squad flies to Gothenburg on Thursday and plans training sessions for Friday and Saturday. The match had been scheduled for May 6 but was postponed because of Malta's May 9 general elections.

WBC will auction Hearn-Fisher fight

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) has announced it is placing the compulsory light-heavyweight fight between champion Thomas Hearn and challenger Eddie Davis on the auction block, since their promoters failed to reach agreement in direct negotiations. The announcement said the auction will be held at the WBC's office in Mexico City at 1700 GMT May 25 and that "both fighters have the obligation to confirm they will comply with the auction results, or otherwise lose their places in the rankings." The deadline for reaching agreement in direct negotiations was May 7.

Italian squad named for 3 internationals

ROME (R) — Italian soccer manager Azeglio Vicini has recalled Juventus centre-forward Aldo Serena and Milan's Franco Baresi for international matches against Norway, Sweden and Argentina over the next three weeks. The national team plays Norway in a friendly in Oslo on May 28 and then travel to Sweden for a European Championship Group Two qualifying match on June 3. Italy meet Argentina in a friendly in Zurich on June 10. Serena and Baresi, dropped for Italy's last international fixture — a goalless friendly against West Germany in April — replace Napoli midfielder Salvatore Bagni, suspended for a match, and Roma's Sebastiano Nela who last week had a knee operation which has put him out for at least eight months. Italy is still without World Cup veteran Antonio Cabrini, also recovering from a knee injury. Internazionale striker Sandro Altobelli was named captain of the 18-man squad.

Dundee poised to make history

DUNDEE, Scotland (AP) — Dundee United bids to become the first Scottish team to lift the UEFA Cup when it takes on IFK Gothenburg of Sweden Wednesday night in the decisive second leg of the final.

Trailing 0-1 from the first game two weeks ago, Dundee goes into the decider still reeling from an upset defeat in last Saturday's Scottish cup final but fully aware that it may never have a better chance of winning one of Europe's three major club soccer trophies.

"It's this chance go," said captain David Narey, whose side has knocked out Barcelona and Borussia Moenchengladbach on its way to a surprise place in the final.

"Saturday's defeat (by St. Mirren) was a major disappointment but it is not the end of the world. The result will be completely forgotten by the time we run out to face Gothenburg."

"This is a European Final, the chance of a lifetime, and if that cannot stimulate us, nothing can."

United looked jaded and disoriented against St. Mirren, and fatigue could be its biggest problem against Gothenburg.

A goal behind, the Scots will be forced to attack from the start in an effort to overturn the deficit and, at the same time, prevent the Swedes from scoring.

But Narey is confident that the capacity 25,000 crowd at United's cramped, atmospheric tannadice

Park Stadium will cheer their side to an aggregate victory.

"With the backing of our own support on our own pitch I believe we can still beat Gothenburg," he said.

"There were definite signs in the first leg they can be rattled. If we can put them under early pressure... then the season could still have a happy ending."

Injuries have not helped Dundee United's cause. Already without striker Billy Kirkwood, influential midfielder Eamonn Bannon was fighting Tuesday to recover from a groin injury sustained against St. Mirren.

Gothenburg should be at full strength, with the return of Roland Nilsson at right midfield, replacing Magnus Johansson, who started in the first leg.

Nilsson has recovered from an operation on his right knee and from an infection that developed after the surgery four months ago.

Wednesday's game will be Dundee United's 60th of a gruelling season and McLean, a strict disciplinarian, has had the awkward task of coaxing his players into the right frame despite his displeasure at Saturday's cup defeat.

"Several players fell well short of the standard we expect," he said. "But now is not the time to lambast them. The players are still clearly shattered. But we must simply lift ourselves for this last game."

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Performances 3:15, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

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Cinema RAGHADAN

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CLASH OF THE NINJAS

Performances 12:15, 3:45, 5:00, 5:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6785/95	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.7300/95	Canadian dollar
	1.7820/95	West German marks
	2.0870/77	Dutch guilders
	1.4620/30	Swiss francs
	36.91/94	Belgian francs
	5.9525/75	French francs
	129.11/292	Italian lira
	140.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.2350/2400	Swedish crown
	6.6130/6200	Norwegian crowns
	6.6975/7025	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	470.70/471.20	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices improved on midsession values in late trading but lacked any incentive for further gains in an atmosphere dominated by political considerations following the publication of the Conservative and Labour Party manifestos. At 1413 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 22.1 points up at 2,214.2, having touched a record high of 2,216.6 earlier.

Dealers said Tuesday's gains reflected a substantial injection of foreign funds. This was based initially on sterling's strength and backed up by continuing signs of improved U.K. corporate profitability, highlighted by improved dividend payments.

Tuesday's gains, which pushed the FTSE 100 share index further into record territory, also reflect expectations of a workable majority for the Conservative Party in the June 11 general election. Dealers said the advance was encouraging in the absence of definitive fresh news.

There was little reaction to a poll in the Today newspaper showing a narrowing of the Tory lead. It gave the Tories 41 per cent of the vote, Labour 33 per cent and the centrist alliance 24 per cent. A previous poll, for Marplan in the Guardian, gave the Tories 43 per cent, Labour 29 per cent and the Alliance 24 per cent.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll-Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Analyze what your most imaginative and idealistic concepts are and then decide the best means to put them on a practical level. Tune into what is best for you.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A quiet meeting with an expert who comprehends your wants can bring you advancement in the right way.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Both a good friend and an outsider can assist you now. Try to get your personal affairs working better.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you work more efficiently you can add appreciably to your present benefits. Use your fine personality.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You have a fine talent which can be made to operate best with the assistance of an expert.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Plan what is best to do so that your mate will not worry about security. Get an early start on business affairs.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take an associate out to lunch and come to a better understanding. Put your ideas into operation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study your environment and know what it will cost to make it more to your liking. Enjoy more happiness tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can enjoy the type of recreation that most pleases you. Your mate has good ideas, so go along with them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Today is very good for having guests come into your home. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) It's a good day to solve any affairs with regular contacts, friends or relatives. Keep things running evenly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get advice from an expert so that you will know how to have a greater abundance from your activities.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Find new avenues of expression that can increase your happiness. New friends can help you advance now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will have a fine understanding of life in general. One who could do very well in business or in artistic endeavors since there is the ability to handle details as well as the main thrust of the project at hand. This one will also understand others.

THE Daily Crossword

by Donald B. Groot

ACROSS

- Not too much
- Pierre's sister; abdr.
- Class protection
- Presiding
- Flag
- Kind of cat
- Of the
- Honor
- Reluctance
- Willa
- Chick's
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- 23 Dobbin's fare
- 24 Roman houses
- 25 Dislike
- 26 Colours
- 27 Baden-Baden
- 28 Auden's tone
- 29 Of course
- 30 Pierre
- 31 Early
- 32 Nordwest
- 33 Actor, Curtis
- 34 Auto pioneer
- 35 Harms
- 36 Yama
- 37 Mah. Indian
- 38 Forest dallas
- 39 Metric
- 40 compass
- 41 Last
- 42 US president
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- 45 Unconscious
- 46 Langthwaite
- 47 Light tone
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- 50 Norwegians
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. RAIN	2. ASH	3. PINE	4. BIRD
5. FISH	6. BIRD	7. PINE	8. BIRD
9. FISH	10. BIRD	11. PINE	12. BIRD
13. FISH	14. BIRD	15. PINE	16. BIRD
17. FISH	18. BIRD	19. PINE	20. BIRD
21. FISH	22. BIRD	23. PINE	24. BIRD
25. FISH	26. BIRD	27. PINE	28. BIRD
29. FISH	30. BIRD	31. PINE	32. BIRD
33. FISH	34. BIRD	35. PINE	36. BIRD
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41. FISH	42. BIRD	43. PINE	44. BIRD
45. FISH	46. BIRD	47. PINE	48. BIRD
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89. FISH	90. BIRD	91. PINE	92. BIRD
93. FISH	94. BIRD	95. PINE	96. BIRD
97. FISH	98. BIRD	99. PINE	100. BIRD

U.S. factories' productivity sags

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The rate at which U.S. mines, factories and utilities operated sagged to 78.9 per cent of capacity in April, the lowest in nearly 3 1/2 years, the Federal Reserve Board (Fed) reported Monday.

The decline from 79.3 per cent in March was one more sign of weaker performance by the U.S. economy.

The April figure, which is subject to revision, was the lowest capacity-use rate figure recorded by the Federal Reserve since December 1983, when plants were running at 78.3 per cent of capacity.

The major reason for last month's fall was a slump in the motor vehicle industry, where auto assembly plants were running at only 73.9 per cent of capacity compared with 81.2 per cent in March.

Manufacturing industries were operating at 79.5 per cent of capacity in April, compared with 80 per cent in March, as durables producers fell to 76 per cent from 76.7 per cent in March and non-durables dropped to 84.6 per cent of capacity from 84.9 per cent.

There were declines across a wide range of industries, including a fall to 69.6 per cent of capacity in April for electrical machinery producers from 70.1 per cent in March and a decline to 88.7 per cent capacity for aerospace companies from 89.4 per cent in March.

The data showing weaker factory use comes amid mounting concern about the economy during the second quarter after a strong 4.3 per cent real rate of growth in gross national product (GNP) between January and March.

Revised GNP figures on total goods and services output for the first quarter are scheduled to be published Friday and some economists think they may show an even stronger quarterly gain because of big inventory buildups in the three months.

Speaking at a ceremony in the White House rose garden, where he presented awards for promotion of exports, President Reagan said: "We will continue to oppose any legislation that threatens to plunge us back into the despair of the 1930s."

Meanwhile, President Ronald Reagan on Monday reiterated his pledge to veto any protectionist legislation passed by Congress, saying that such laws could cost millions of jobs.

Reagan said the measure would bring retaliation against U.S. exports, hurt consumers by raising prices and narrowing choices and actually cost more jobs than it would save.

An effort to override that veto failed in the House.

The new measure being urged by the textile and apparel industries would establish import quotas for a wide array of products.

President Reagan vetoed legislation in 1985 that called for rollbacks in a surge of textile and apparel imports in the early 1980s. He said the measure would bring retaliation against U.S. exports, hurt consumers by raising prices and narrowing choices and actually cost more jobs than it would save.

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But the stocks of unsold goods are casting a shadow over second-quarter prospects as industry cuts back output in order to reduce inventory. That could mean reduced employment opportunities later in the year.

The Fed said last week output from factories, mines and utilities fell by 0.4 per cent in April, an indication of sluggish economic growth.

While the monthly trade deficit improved in March to \$13.6 billion from \$15.1 billion in February, inflation fears have resurfaced and could lead to higher interest rates.

Producer prices, a measure of inflation at the wholesale level, rose by an alarming 0.7 per cent in April, the largest monthly rise since October 1985.

Share prices on Wall Street have fallen sharply in response to the negative economic news and were down more than 30 points at midday Monday.

The dollar gained on New York currency markets amid speculation the Fed might be forced to raise its key discount rate to protect the currency's value. It was selling at 139.92 Japanese yen at noon, up from Friday's close of 139.55 yen.

But while higher interest rates attract foreign investment and bolster the dollar, they also discourage borrowing for investment, adversely affect consumer spending and ultimately could further slow the pace of economic activity.

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He argued that the Smoot-Hawley protective tariff enacted at that time deepened the Great Depression and that bills now being considered in Congress could have a similar effect.

"I renew my promise today," he said. "Any protectionist legislation that comes across my desk is going to get a big fat V-E-T-O written right across it. I'm not going to let political grandstanding destroy millions of American jobs."

In another development, the House of Representatives Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee said Monday that U.S. aircraft, telecommunications and supercomputer exports would come in for swift retaliation if textile import curbs being weighed by the House become law.

"I think the response of our trading partners would be immediate," Deputy U.S. Trade Representative B. Smith said. "The Chinese, if past is prologue, would retaliate. I believe the Koreans would retaliate."

Mr. Smith said aircraft, supercomputers and telecommunications equipment would be likely to bear the brunt of any European trade barriers put in place in retaliation for the curbs prescribed by the bill.

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Fiji still restless after coup leader caves in

SUVA (R) — Fiji's governor-general claimed Tuesday to have taken control of the country from rebels who seized power in a coup five days ago, but armed troops continued to patrol the streets as small disturbances broke out in the capital.

Governor-General Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau said in a radio statement he had reversed his decision to swear in an army-backed rebel group as a caretaker government and that Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, who led Thursday's bloodless coup, had agreed to surrender authority to him.

There was no public confirmation from Col. Rabuka and for the first time since the coup gunfire was heard in Suva as troops fired shots over the heads of protesters.

There were no reported injuries among protesters, who were fired on as they demanded the release of deposed Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra. Dr. Bavadra has been held since he was abducted from parliament at gunpoint.

On Sunday, Ganilau swore Col. Rabuka in as chairman of the council in a secret ceremony. The coup leader told reporters that though Ganilau considered his government illegal, he had agreed to the swearing in to preserve law and order.

In his surprise radio broadcast Tuesday, however, Ganilau said he had refused to swear in Col. Rabuka's council of ministers because the "military regime" was illegal.

Ganilau said he would announce his own panel of advisers Wednesday to help manage the country.

He said he would dissolve parliament.

ment, call fresh elections and show mercy to army personnel involved in the coup.

Col. Rabuka told his troops earlier that he was prepared to face death for treason: "If death is to be my fate after this, then I accept it because I know that I go with a clear conscience leaving a country where peace has prevailed."

Col. Rabuka has said he mounted the coup to preempt violence by militant Fijians upset at Indian domination of Dr. Bavadra's coalition.

Ganilau said his advisory council would recommend changes to the 17-year-old constitution to assuage the fears of the people of Fiji.

"A return to normalcy will be done in phases and a major phase has been accomplished today. Be patient, be calm and keep the faith," Ganilau said.

Since the coup, the governor-general has been in regular contact with Fiji's head of state, Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

Sources close to Ganilau said the queen told him on Friday to give the coup leaders a 90-hour ultimatum.

Fiji Chief Justice Sir Timoci Tuivaga said the judiciary had never doubted Ganilau's integrity. He had avoided "a calamity," Tuivaga said.

Ganilau's broadcast did little to quell unrest — the army had to break-up a riot in central Suva's Sukuna Park when a mob of

Fijians set upon a taxi carrying an Australian reporter and dragged the Indian driver onto the road.

The army dispersed the mob, preventing serious injuries.

One senior rebel officer, who did not wish to be named, told Reuters: "We will not recall our men to barracks until the governor-general sets up or announces a caretaker government."

"We don't want to be caught off-guard, with our pants down. If we surrender now we will leave ourselves vulnerable. At least together we are a united force and can offer strong resistance."

Most Indian-owned shops remained closed Tuesday behind storm-shutters and children were sent home from schools.

Banks reopened after being ordered to close on Monday and were inundated with anxious customers wanting to withdraw cash.

New Zealand quietly welcomed Tuesday the announcement by Fiji's governor-general that he now controls the nation and pledged full support for his efforts to restore democracy.

"I support the governor-general's appeal for calm and for the army to return to the barracks," Prime Minister David Lange said in a brief statement.

"What is needed now is a period of calm."

Mr. Lange said he would have no further comment on the announcement by Governor-General Ganilau until the officials who will advise him are named.

The prime minister added without elaboration that an air force Hercules aircraft and "appropriate personnel remain in a state of preparedness in case the situation in Fiji warrants it."

Chinese fail to keep forest fires apart

PEKING (R) — Firefighters lost their battle Tuesday to keep apart two massive forest fires in China's remote north east, where 191 people have been killed and 50,000 left homeless since the blazes began two weeks ago.

China's national radio said the east and west fire zones of Dazhinganling close to the Soviet border had swept through virgin forest to merge into one, despite firefighting efforts by 37,000 troops, firemen and civilian volunteers.

Officials had hoped to bring the fires under control by Wednesday, reports on Sunday said.

Earlier reports Tuesday said new fires had erupted but thick smoke meant aircraft had been unable to get close enough to determine their extent.

More than 500,000 hectares (1,235,000 acres) of China's largest natural forest has been affected by the blaze and two entire towns in Mohe county engulfed by the flames.

At least 221 have been seriously injured, official reports said. Some 230,000 yuan (\$62,000) of first aid supplies have been donated to the area by Red Cross organisations in other countries, national radio said Tuesday.

Early official reports said China's worst fire since 1949 had been started by a bushcutting machine on May 5 but later reports said the cause was not known.

The prime minister added without elaboration that an air force Hercules aircraft and "appropriate personnel remain in a state of preparedness in case the situation in Fiji warrants it."

Peruvian police end strike after higher pay

LIMA (R) — Peruvian police have ended a four-day strike for higher pay saying the stoppage, which hospital sources said had cost at least one life, was successful.

Thousands of police waiting outside the Peruvian congress dispersed to report for duty after their leaders returned from a five-hour meeting at the presidential palace and said they had won an increase of more than 100 per cent in the basic minimum wage and other benefits.

Troops had stood guard over the strikers throughout the day, firing occasional bursts in the air from automatic rifles to maintain order.

Police and hospital sources said at least one person was killed by a stray bullet and dozens of strikers were hurt in scuffles with soldiers.

complying with orders from President Alan Garcia to end the strike.

Mr. Garcia, who a presidential spokesman said did not attend the meeting at the palace, handed complete control of public order in Lima Monday night to the military, authorising them to use all necessary force to flush strikers out of the barracks they had been occupying.

Strikers firing shots in the air hijacked an armoured car and several buses Monday, but troops did not intervene until the protesters began to head for congress.

Soldiers in battle dress closed all roads around the presidential palace, mounting pickets every fifty metres and refusing admittance to all but officials and residents.

Sarney asks for 5-year term

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Hoping to quiet demands for early presidential elections, President Jose Sarney asked the National Assembly to ratify his term until 1990 to "consolidate Brazil's return to democracy."

The constitution under which Mr. Sarney was elected in 1985, written while the country was still under military rule, established a 6-year presidential term.

However, the National Assembly is rewriting the constitution and legislators are considering a possible 4- or 5-year presidential term.

Mr. Sarney said in a televised address Monday night that he was willing to step down in 1990.

Any mandate less than five years would not allow a complete transition to democracy," said Mr. Sarney, Brazil's first civilian president after 21 years of military rule. "We need stability, not presidential elections now."

Mr. Sarney was elected vice president in March 1985 as the running mate of President Tancredino Neves. Mr. Neves was too ill to attend his inauguration and died within weeks, and was succeeded by Mr. Sarney.

Politicians, upset by 20 per cent monthly inflation levels and a faltering economy, have called in recent weeks for direct presidential elections next year. Mr. Neves and Mr. Sarney were selected by an Electoral College.

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Seoul holds 400 on revolt anniversary

KWANGJU, South Korea (R) — South Korean police said Tuesday they were questioning nearly 400 people arrested during widespread anti-government protests at this traditionally festive town Monday, the anniversary of an armed civilian uprising seven years ago.

Life in the south-western city, however, appeared to quickly return to normal a day after violent street clashes between government and opposition forces.

On Monday, thousands of chanting demonstrators, including relatives of victims of the

Kwangju mutiny, students, workers and Christian and civil-rights activists, battled with riot police. They attacked the police with rocks, petrol bombs and other missiles.

Big forces of police retaliated with teargas to disperse the protesters, who demanded the resignation of President Chun Doo Hwan's government and the withdrawal of his April 13 decision to put off debate on constitutional reform until after he stood down next February.

Police said more than 20,000 students from 62 universities

staged anti-government demonstrations throughout the country Monday.

Disidents have vowed to continue protest rallies in Kwangju at least until May 27, the day when the army, under then General Chun, crushed the nine-day revolt with the loss of 193 lives by official count. Mr. Chun's opponents claim the figure was much higher.

Religious activists said photographs and video tapes of the rebellion would be displayed at a number of Christian centres in the city until the end of the anniversary week.

Soviet arms negotiator decries American stance in Geneva talks

MOSCOW (R) — Senior Soviet arms control official Viktor Karpov has decried the U.S. negotiating position at the Geneva arms talks and linked a future superpower summit to progress in all spheres.

Writing in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda, Mr. Karpov called on the United States European allies to take advantage of what he described as "the moment of truth" for disarmament on the continent and told Washington to stop seeking unilateral gains.

"We would not like to think that the United States wants to put a cross on the possibility of reaching agreement with the Soviet Union on the central question — the reduction of strategic offensive weapons," Mr. Karpov said.

"At the same time we cannot ignore the serious obstacles created by the United States through its position at the (Geneva) talks."

Mr. Karpov, who heads the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Arms Control Directorate, also sharply attacked Washington's position on strategic nuclear missiles, saying U.S. refusal to include limits on the development of space defences in a long-range missile accord precluded any possibility of agreement.

He said Moscow had tabled a proposal in Geneva for "key provisions of agreements" on rein-

forcing the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty to bar an arms race in space, on 50 per cent cuts in superpower long-range arsenals and on stage-by-stage ending of nuclear tests.

Mr. Karpov said Washington was well aware that a new summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev depended on acceptance of these "key provisions" and the achievement of a draft treaty on medium-range missiles.

Mr. Karpov listed three objections to Washington's stand on U.S. and Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe following Moscow's proposal to eliminate them.

One was a U.S. plan to convert Pershing-2 medium-range missiles into shorter-range arms, a second was a proposal that the first stage of "Euromissile" reductions be conducted by the Soviet side alone, with U.S. cuts beginning in a second stage.

The third objection concerned a Soviet proposal that 100 medium-range missiles to be retained by each side on their own territory outside Europe be deployed in such a way that they could not reach the other's territory.

Mr. Karpov said U.S. plans to base its missiles in Alaska would increase the threat to the Soviet Union at a time when the aim was to reduce nuclear confrontation.

New Zealand jumbo crew overpower Fijian hijacker

WELLINGTON (R) — An airport worker held an Air New Zealand jumbo jet for almost seven hours in Fiji Tuesday before being overpowered by the flight crew, the airline said.

New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange put the army's crack commando squad on alert after the seizure and said the frigate Wellington, now in Suva, was ready to sail to Lautoka, near Nadi Airport, on the west of the island.

The hijacker had claimed to have explosives strapped to his body.

He allowed the 105 passengers and the 21 members of the cabin crew to leave the Boeing 747, which had been on a flight from Tokyo to Auckland. He kept the three man flight crew on board and demanded he be flown out of Fiji.

The New Zealand Press Association said another demand was that the Fijian military release Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra who was detained in last Thursday's military coup.

Air New Zealand said the pilot, first officer and flight engineer overpowered and handcuffed the hijacker.

He was handed over to airport authorities.

Mr. Lange had identified the man as Ahmed Ali, 37.

Mr. Lange had responded to the seizure by putting the army's Special Air Services (SAS) unit on alert.

U.N. asks world to contemplate population of 5b

LONDON (AP) — The United Nations has asked people everywhere to pause on July 11 and contemplate the future of baby five billion, the unknown child demographers have chosen as a symbol of the World Population Explosion.

The State of World Population 1987, a report by the U.N. Fund for Population Activities, said baby five billion is likely to be born in the developing world — where 90 per cent of children are born today.

The report said the baby faces a grim future competing for survival, education and employment. The baby's prospects are even worse if it's a girl.

Baby five billion would have a much better chance at a college education and a good job if born in a developed country in North America or Europe where population growth has slowed and families are smaller, the report said.

The fund's executive director Dr. Nafis Sadik said the two

Opposition asks Ershad to hold new polls

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia has repeated a demand that President Hossein Mohammad Ershad transfer power to a caretaker government and hold elections.

Speaking to a meeting of her Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) here Monday, she urged people to unite to overthrow his government if it did not step down soon.

"Establishment of a truly democratic government created through free and fair elections could only help the country out of its problems," she said.

Gen. Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless coup in March, 1982, rejected a previous opposition demand for fresh polls under an interim government as "childish and unacceptable."

Ms. Khaleda said the government had pushed the country to the verge of political and economic collapse.

"It has lost the right to rule because of soaring food prices, rampant corruption, murders, kidnapping and other crimes over the past five years have almost crippled the society," she said.

Gen. Ershad ended martial law last November after he won a presidential election a month earlier. His Jatiya Party won an overwhelming majority in a May, 1986, parliamentary poll amid charges of widespread ballot rigging and muscle-flexing by the

pro-government activists. The BNP boycotted both elections.

Parliamentary opposition leader Sheikh Hasina told a rally of her Bangladesh Awami League in north Bangladesh Monday that "the ruling class has robbed the people of their social and economic rights."

Addressing a rally outside Dhaka last week, Gen. Ershad lashed out at opposition parties demanding the resignation of his government or criticising its policies. He called them "paper tigers."

"They are trying to halt our march towards progress. They are not friends of the people," he said.

18 charged for treason in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — Former First Vice President Francis Minah and 15 other defendants were charged Monday with treason, a death-penalty offence, in connection with a March 23 coup plot foiled by security agents.

Two other people were charged with concealing knowledge of treason, punishable by life imprisonment.

The 18 defendants appeared in the law courts building but did not enter pleas. Their trial is to begin on June 1.

There had been widespread speculation that former President Siaka Stevens was implicated in the plot, but President Joseph Saidu Momoh said no evidence had been found against his predecessor.

Momoh also told the Associated Press that at least one suspected coup plotter, Mohammad

Jaward, escaped prosecution because he is not in the country.

Jaward, a millionaire who had run the business empire of Afro-Lebanese tycoon Jamil Said Mohammed, reportedly left three days before security agents quashed what they said was a plan to assassinate Momoh and replace him with Minah.

"There is every likelihood that if he (Jaward) were here he would have been charged," Momoh said.

Sen. Simon joins race for Democratic nomination

CARBONDALE, Illinois (AP) — Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois has formally joined the Democratic Party's presidential field and says he is already "ahead of most of the others who have been out there a long time."

Sen. Simon said Monday he has picked up backers since Gary Hart, a former Colorado senator, quit the race for the party's nomination to succeed Republican President Ronald Reagan in 1988.

"We're still way behind, but we're moving," he said. "We're ahead of most of the others who have been out there a long time."

Sen. Simon, 58, identified as a liberal, went to the southern Illinois University campus for his formal announcement, a move that aides said was meant to underscore his commitment to education.

He said voters are paying far more attention to character in the wake of Iran-contra affair and of Sen. Hart's decision to abandon the presidential race after

being linked in published reports to a Miami model.

"There is kind of a basic question that has been addressed by a series of things, both on our side and on the Republican side," Sen. Simon said. It goes to the fundamental question of can you trust whoever it is to be a leader.

"The Gary Hart thing is a part of that mood," Sen. Simon said. Sen. Simon joined a field that includes Missouri Representative Richard Gephardt, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt as formally announced candidates.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden and Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore are expected to join the field by summer.

Meanwhile, New York Governor Mario Cuomo, a bit in the presidential polls, said Monday that not only is he not a candidate, but he does not want to be considered a leading Democratic Party spokesman.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Soviet entry wins 2 prizes at Cannes

CANNES, France (R) — Pokoyaniye (Repentance), the Soviet entry at the Cannes Film Festival, was Tuesday named winner of the International Critics' Prize and the Ecumenical Jury Award at the Cannes Film Festival. The film, directed by Georgian filmmaker Tengiz Abuladze in dramatic and surrealistic style, was praised by the International Critics "for its striking visual dramatisation of a courageous and clear political analysis." The ecumenical jury, which awards films that further ecumenical and humanitarian themes, also commended the single African entry Yeelen by Mali director Souleymane Cisse, and a Danish film Babette's Feast (Babette's Feast) by Gabriel Axel. The International Critics' jury also awarded prizes to two films outside the Cannes official competition. Noce En Galilee, a Belgian-French-Palestinian co-production directed by Michel Khleifi, was praised for "its profoundly human vision of the traditions and the conflicts of a people in a crisis." "Wish You Were Here" by British director David Leland was praised for freshness and humour in describing people in a specific social milieu.

Pregnant maids face stoning to death

MANILA (R) — The Philippines has appealed to the Kuwaiti government to repatriate four pregnant Filipinos, who could be stoned to death for sex outside wedlock, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has said. Alunan Glang, Philippine ambassador to Kuwait, told reporters in Manila that the women, working as maids, had taken refuge at the Philippine embassy after running away from their employers, who refuse to admit paternity. Glang said the women could be sentenced to death by stoning under Islamic Laws, which prohibit sex outside marriage. He said a Sri Lankan woman was imprisoned and stoned to death last year after she became pregnant by a driver.

Czechoslovak escapes to West Germany

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — A Czechoslovak man escaped across the border to West Germany in a plane he secretly built for himself, Bavarian police said Tuesday. The man, aged 39, took off Monday night from Domazice in Czechoslovakia and landed an hour later, shortly before running out of petrol, near the Bavarian town of Roding, about 50 kilometres inside West Germany. Police said the man had sought political asylum. In a separate development Communist border troops caught two East Germans as they tried to flee across a checkpoint to West Berlin, just hours after a similar incident at another crossing. The West Berlin sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Western travellers at the Berlin Wall's Staaken Crossing witnessed the incident just before midnight Sunday. The sources said they had no other details. A young man made a dash to freedom Sunday afternoon through the Checkpoint Charlie crossing but fell and was grabbed by East German border guards about 15 metres before reaching West Berlin, witnesses said. West Berlin police, quoting numerous witnesses, said no shots were heard. Checkpoint Charlie is the most famous wall crossing between the two sectors of this divided, East-West city. After several escapes and escape attempts at Checkpoint Charlie, the East Germans put up sophisticated barriers that have made it more difficult to flee Berlin's Communist Sector.

29 jailed in Naples quake fraud

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Twenty-nine people were sentenced to eight months jail for making fraudulent applications for homes intended for victims of the 1980 Naples earthquake. The trial followed an examination of documents filed with applications for 28,000 homes built for families whose houses were destroyed in the disaster. The 29 were also fined 300,000 lire (\$250) each. Seven others on trial with them were acquitted for lack of evidence.

Mother acquitted of stealing son

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — A judge acquitted a mother of stealing her son from his homosexual father minutes before a jury was to have begun deliberating in her case. "The evidence shows, in my view, that the mother, Betty Lou Batey, was consumed by fear," Superior Court Judge Douglas Woodworth said. "I find the defendant not guilty." Mrs. Batey, 43, was said by her lawyer to have feared her son, Brian, now 16, would be harmed by his father's homosexual lifestyle. She was charged with stealing Brian from his father, Frank Batey, a self-avowed homosexual, in September, 1982. Brian Batey said out of court that he has been living in his father's home recently after two years in foster homes. "I love both my parents," he said. Shouts of "Praise the Lord" came from a dozen of Mrs. Batey's fellow members of a Christian Fundamentalist Church when the judge announced his verdict.

John Paul II turns 67

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Papal headquarters were flooded with birthday greetings Monday as Pope John Paul II turned 67, but the Pontiff spent a normal working day. The Polish-born John Paul, who is named for St. Charles Borromeo, observes his "name day" on Nov. 4 rather than his birthday.

Courtroom kiss 'passed cocaine to accused'

ROME (R) — An Italian woman was arrested after apparently trying to pass her lover cocaine with a passionate kiss in a Rome courtroom, police said. Rosa Cioffi, 30, walked up to her boyfriend and kissed him on the mouth as he entered the dock to hear charges of drugs trafficking and then rushed out of the court. She was detained on suspicion of the same offence after the prosecutor noticed she had a capsule between her lips. Police said the capsule appeared to contain cocaine.

Kidnapped Pakistani tycoon freed

KARACHI (R) — Bandits have freed a Pakistani business magnate they kidnapped on Friday in the south of the country, police said Tuesday. They said Saleman Dawood, a senior official in one of Pakistan's leading industrial groups, was freed in Sind province Monday and later brought to his home in the provincial capital Karachi. Provincial Police Chief Salman Khaliq told reporters no ransom was paid. According to police, Dawood was kidnapped by four gunmen on Friday at his farm at Hassanpur, 180 kilometres north-east of Karachi.

Rare Bronte manuscripts to be published

SYDNEY (R) — Rare manuscripts written by British novelist Charlotte Bronte will be published for the first time this week after eight years of exhaustive research by an Australian academic. Christine Alexander, doctor of English at the University of New South Wales, said she found the manuscripts in private collections and libraries in the United States and Britain, including those at Princeton University, Harvard University and the British Library in London. Followers of the 19th-century author of Jane Eyre have been eagerly awaiting the results of Alexander's work, which includes more than 100 previously unpublished pieces of poetry and prose. Alexander told reporters she spent three years deciphering and editing the documents. In one instance she pieced together half of a story found in the United States with the other half from a British Library. The two halves had been separated in a sale of manuscripts after Bronte's death in 1855. Charlotte, born in 1816, was the eldest of the three Bronte sisters. Alexander said the manuscripts reveal a more detailed picture of Charlotte's relatively unknown early years. They demonstrate the autobiographical nature of major parts of Bronte's work, the story of the tribulations of a governess who eventually marries the father of her wards, Alexander said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—I occasionally see references in your column to fourth-suit forcing. What's new? I've been playing bridge for more than 40 years and a bid of the fourth suit has always been forcing. — A.W., Seattle, Wash.

A.—In a sense you are right. There are few, if any, sequences where the bid of the fourth suit is not forcing. However, in the good old days, when you bid the fourth suit you had it. Nowadays, that is seldom the case.

First, let's clarify what we mean by the fourth suit:

A. North South
1 ♣ 1 ♠
2 ♣ 2 ♠

B. North South
1 ♣ 1 ♠
1 ♠ 2 ♣

Both of South's last bids are in the fourth suit, and are forcing. Typical hands for South's actions in the two sequences could be:

A. ♠KJ643 ♥322 ♦AQ ♣KQ7
B. ♠AJ3 ♥QJ985 ♦72 ♣AQ6

show three-card support for responder's suit; or, make any other bid that further describes his hand.

If you are going to play fourth-suit forcing, you have to decide with partner whether sequences that start with the fourth suit are game-forcing or only a one-round force. Nothing is more embarrassing than employing the fourth suit with a strong hand and then finding that partner drops the auction at the three-level.

These days, many players have become lazy and, instead of trying to find a useful alternative, ring in the fourth suit at the drop of the hat. In effect, they are saying: "I am not sure what the right bid is, so I'll bid the fourth suit and let you make the mistake." Personally, I prefer the method used by some pairs on Italy's famous Blue Team: if the fourth suit is bid at the two-level, it is artificial and asks partner to describe his hand further; if it is bid at the one- or three-level, it is natural and partner should proceed normally.

In recent years, I have seen more disasters in top-level competition that are directly attributable to the fourth-suit force than to almost anything else. If you do decide to adopt this measure, you and your partner should discuss with great care the resulting sequences.